



PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR

No. 33, s-2006

TO : ALL CONCERNED
SUBJECT : Clarification on Relative Value Scale Coding for Chemotherapy Administration

This Circular is issued to facilitate correct assignment of Relative Value Unit (RVU) for chemotherapy.

1. The Code and RVU of chemotherapy in Relative Value System (RVS) 2001 is as follows:

CODE	DESCRIPTIVE TERMS	RVU
96408	Chemotherapy administration	10

This code is used to report parenteral administration of antineoplastic drugs (Category 9.1 of the 6th edition of the Philippine National Drug Formulary (PNDF)) via subcutaneous, intramuscular, intralesional, intravenous or intra-arterial route for the treatment of malignancies.

2. The following are also covered by this code:
- Claims for auto-immune disorders using antineoplastic drugs (e.g., pulsed cyclophosphamide)
 - Sex hormones/hormone antagonists (Category 9.2 of the 6th edition of PNDF) and other hormone-like drugs (e.g., goserelin) used for the treatment of malignancies

3. However, the following are not covered by this code:

- Oral administration of antineoplastic drugs. Claims for outpatient oral chemotherapy are not reimbursable.
- Parenteral antibiotics, steroids, analgesics, narcotics or anti-emetics (Category 9.5 of the 6th edition of PNDF) administered as supportive management for malignancy.
 - Claims for independent administration of these medicines in an outpatient setting shall be denied.
 - However, these drugs may be paid if given for inpatient cases or administered during chemotherapy sessions.

4. Administration of radioactive isotopes (Category 9.4 of the 6th edition of PNDF) for cancer therapy shall be reported as follows:

CODE	DESCRIPTIVE TERMS	RVU
79005	Radiopharmaceutical ablation of gland for thyroid carcinoma or metastases of thyroid carcinoma	10

RVS 2001 code 79000 shall only be used for radiopharmaceutical therapy indicated for non-cancer diagnoses (i.e., for the treatment of hyperthyroidism).

3. Other chemotherapy administration shall be reported as follows:

CODE	DESCRIPTIVE TERMS	RVU
50391	Instillation of therapeutic agent into renal pelvis and/or ureter through established nephrostomy, pyelostomy or ureterostomy tube	10
51720	Bladder instillation of anticarcinogenic agent	10
96440	Chemotherapy administration into pleural cavity, requiring and including thoracentesis	15
96445	Chemotherapy administration into peritoneal cavity, requiring and including peritoneocentesis	30
96450	Chemotherapy administration into CNS, requiring and including spinal puncture	15
96542	Chemotherapy injection, subarachnoid or intraventricular via subcutaneous reservoir	10

This Circular shall take effect for all claims with admission dates starting January 1, 2007. All other issuances inconsistent with this Circular are hereby modified or repealed accordingly.

For your information and guidance.

(Sgd.) LORNA O. FAJARDO
 Acting President and CEO

Date Signed: November 20, 2006