

§ 415.190

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§ 415.190 Conditions of payment: Assistants at surgery in teaching hospitals.

(a) *Basis, purpose, and scope.* This section describes the conditions under which Medicare pays on a fee schedule basis for the services of an assistant at surgery in a teaching hospital. This section is based on section 1842(b)(7)(D)(I) of the Act and applies only to hospitals with an approved GME residency program. Except as specified in paragraph (c) of this section, fee schedule payment is not available for assistants at surgery in hospitals with—

(1) A training program relating to the medical specialty required for the surgical procedure; and

(2) A resident in a training program relating to the specialty required for the surgery available to serve as an assistant at surgery.

(b) *Definition.* *Assistant at surgery* means a physician who actively assists the physician in charge of a case in performing a surgical procedure.

(c) *Conditions for payment for assistants at surgery.* Payment on a fee schedule basis is made for the services of an assistant at surgery in a teaching hospital only if the services meet one of the following conditions:

(1) Are required as a result of exceptional medical circumstances.

(2) Are complex medical procedures performed by a team of physicians, each performing a discrete, unique function integral to the performance of a complex medical procedure that requires the special skills of more than one physician.

(3) Constitute concurrent medical care relating to a medical condition that requires the presence of, and active care by, a physician of another specialty during surgery.

(4) Are medically required and are furnished by a physician who is primarily engaged in the field of surgery, and the primary surgeon does not use interns and residents in the surgical procedures that the surgeon performs (including preoperative and post-operative care).

(5) Are not related to a surgical procedure for which CMS determines that assistants are used less than 5 percent of the time.

Subpart E—Services of Residents

§ 415.200 Services of residents in approved GME programs.

(a) *General rules.* Services furnished in hospitals by residents in approved GME programs are specifically excluded from being paid as “physician services” defined in § 414.2 of this chapter and are payable as hospital services. This exclusion applies whether or not the resident is licensed to practice under the laws of the State in which he or she performs the service. The payment methodology for services of residents in hospitals and hospital-based providers is set forth in § 413.86 of this chapter.

(b) *Exception.* For low and mid-level evaluation and management services furnished under certain conditions in centers located in hospital outpatient departments and other ambulatory settings, see § 415.174.

(c) *Definitions.* See § 415.152 for definitions of terms used in this subpart E.

§ 415.202 Services of residents not in approved GME programs.

(a) *General rules.* For services of a physician employed by a hospital who is authorized to practice only in a hospital setting and for the services of a resident who is not in any approved GME program, payment is made to the hospital on a Part B reasonable cost basis regardless of whether the services are furnished to hospital inpatients or outpatients.

(b) *Payment.* For services described in paragraph (a) of this section, payment is made under Part B by reducing the reasonable costs of furnishing the services by the beneficiary deductible and paying 80 percent of the remaining amount. No payment is made for other costs of unapproved programs, such as administrative costs related to teaching activities of physicians.

§ 415.204 Services of residents in skilled nursing facilities and home health agencies.

(a) *Medicare Part A payment.* Payment is made under Medicare Part A for interns’ and residents’ services furnished in the following settings that meet the specified requirements: