

2005 to 2006 Drug Reimbursement Comparison

A look at how hospitals are faring under ASP

by Linda Gledhill, MHA

Anti-cancer and supportive care drugs in the hospital outpatient setting showed reimbursement gains and losses in 2006 ASP Medi-

care payment rates when compared with 2005 AWP Medicare payment rates (see Table 1). Of 42 anti-cancer drugs used in the hospital outpatient

setting, 50 percent (41) showed an increase or no change in Medicare reimbursement from 2005 to 2006. The average increase in payment

Table 1. Drug Reimbursement Comparison 2005 to 2006: Antineoplastic Drugs

HCPCS Code	Short Description	HCPCS Code Dosage	2005 AWP Payment Rate	2006 2nd Quarter ASP Data	Percent Change
J9045	Carboplatin injection	50 mg	\$129.96	\$13.87	-89%
J9265	Paclitaxel injection	30 mg	\$79.04	\$15.58	-80%
J9390	Vinorelbine tartrate	10 mg	\$95.23	\$22.25	-77%
J9060	Cisplatin injection	10 mg	\$7.73	\$1.88	-76%
J9040	Bleomycin sulfate injection	15 units	\$88.32	\$24.59	-72%
J9209	Mesna injection	200 mg	\$17.66	\$7.95	-55%
J9217	Leuprolide acetate suspension	7.5 mg	\$543.72	\$245.31	-55%
J9202	Goserelin acetate implant	3.6 mg	\$390.09	\$199.47	-49%
J9218	Leuprolide acetate injection	1 mg	\$14.48	\$7.94	-45%
J9181	Etoposide injection	10 mg	\$0.83	\$0.49	-42%
J9280	Mitomycin injection	5 mg	\$30.91	\$19.00	-39%
J9150	Daunorubicin	10 mg	\$35.94	\$23.59	-34%
J9070	Cyclophosphamide injection	100 mg	\$2.77	\$2.00	-28%
J9185	Fludarabine phosphate injection	50 mg	\$311.09	\$232.31	-25%
J9208	Ifosfomide injection	1 gm	\$72.81	\$54.71	-25%
J9031	Bcg live intravesical vac	1 ea	\$139.90	\$111.54	-20%
J9170	Docetaxel	20 mg	\$312.69	\$297.69	-5%
J9100	Cytarabine hcl injection	100 mg	\$1.55	\$1.50	-3%
J9017	Arsenic trioxide	1 mg	\$34.10	\$33.23	-3%
J9010	Alemtuzumab injection	10 mg	\$541.45	\$530.76	-2%
J9206	Irinotecan injection	20 mg	\$127.33	\$126.47	-1%
J9035	Bevacizumab injection	10 mg	\$57.13	\$56.90	0%
J9055	Cetuximab injection	10 mg	\$49.87	\$49.86	0%
J9340	Thiotepa injection	15 mg	\$45.31	\$45.81	1%
J9395	Fulvestrant injection	25 mg	\$79.65	\$81.08	2%
J9305	Pemetrexed injection	10 mg	\$40.54	\$41.29	2%
J9178	Epirubicin hcl injection	2 mg	\$24.14	\$24.70	2%
J9263	Oxaliplatin	0.5 mg	\$8.16	\$8.55	5%
J9214	Interferon alfa-2b injection	1 mil units	\$13.00	\$13.67	5%
J9310	Rituximab cancer treatment	100 mg	\$437.83	\$469.66	7%
J9001	Doxorubicin hcl liposome injection	10 mg	\$343.78	\$371.06	8%
J9293	Mitoxantrone hcl	5 mg	\$313.96	\$339.97	8%
J9355	Trastuzumab	10 mg	\$50.79	\$55.11	9%
J9015	Aldesleukin/single use vial	1 each	\$680.35	\$741.09	9%
J9041	Bortezomib injection	0.1 mg	\$27.53	\$30.09	9%
J9213	Interferon alfa-2a injection	3 mil units	\$30.48	\$33.85	11%
J9201	Gemcitabine hcl	200 mg	\$105.73	\$117.70	11%
J9350	Topotecan	4 mg	\$697.76	\$787.97	13%
J9160	Denileukin diftitox	300 mcg	\$1,232.88	\$1,404.30	14%
J9268	Pentostatin injection	10 mg	\$1,683.24	\$2,020.02	20%
J9000	Doxorubicin hcl	10 mg	\$4.69	\$6.29	34%
J9065	Cladribine injection	1 mg	\$24.84	\$38.64	56%

was 8 percent. Among the highest percentage advancers were: J9065 cladribine, from \$24.84 to \$38.64; J9000 doxorubicin, from \$4.69 to \$6.29; and J9268 pentostatin, from \$1,683.24 to \$2,020.02.

Still, the other half of the 42 anti-cancer drugs showed a decrease in Medicare reimbursement from 2005 AWP rates to 2006 ASP rates. The average decrease in payment was minus 39 percent. Among the highest percentage decliners were: J9045 carboplatin, from \$129.96 in 2005 to \$13.87 in 2006; J9265 paclitaxel, from \$79.04 to \$15.58;

J9390 vinorelbine, from \$95.23 to \$22.25; and J9060 cisplatin, from \$7.73 to \$1.88.

Of 23 supportive care drugs used in the hospital outpatient setting, nearly half showed an increase in Medicare reimbursement from January 2005 to January 2006 (see Table 2). The average increase was 15 percent, with ondansetron hcl (oral), octreotide (both non-depot and depot), and capecitabine oral (150 mg), leading the gainers.

On the downside, slightly more than half of the commonly used supportive care drugs showed a

decrease in Medicare reimbursement from 2005 to 2006. The average decrease was minus 11 percent. The biggest decliners were pamidronate disodium, which decreased 77 percent from 2005 to 2006, and granisetron hcl injection, which decreased 58 percent. Of note: Both darbepoetin alfa and epoetin alfa had significant declines in reimbursement, minus 17 and minus 16 percent, respectively. ❏

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Table 2. Drug Reimbursement Comparison 2005 to 2006: Supportive Care Drugs

HCPCS Code	Short Description	HCPCS Code Dosage	2005 AWP Payment Rate	2006 2nd Quarter ASP Data	Percent Change
J2430	Pamidronate disodium	30 mg	\$128.74	\$29.59	-77%
J1626	Granisetron hcl injection	100 mcg	\$16.20	\$6.87	-58%
J2405	Ondansetron hcl injection	1 mg	\$5.54	\$3.72	-33%
Q0180	Dolasetron mesylate oral	100 mg	\$63.28	\$47.97	-24%
J0881	Darbepoetin alfa (Aranesp)	1mcg	\$3.66	\$3.03	-17%
J0885	Epoetin Alfa (Procrit)	1,000 units	\$11.09	\$9.34	-16%
J2505	Pegfilgrastim injection	6 mg	\$2,448.50	\$2,163.20	-12%
J2820	Sargramostim injection	50 mcg	\$25.39	\$23.34	-8%
J1745	Infliximab injection	10 mg	\$57.40	\$54.24	-6%
J2469	Palonosetron HCl	25 mcg	\$18.25	\$17.68	-3%
J0128	Abarelix injection	10 mg	\$67.62	\$66.83	-1%
J2355	Oprelvekin injection	5 mg	\$248.16	\$245.70	-1%
J3305	Trimetrexate glucuronate injection	25 mg	\$142.50	\$145.76	2%
J3487	Zoledronic acid	1 mg	\$197.87	\$202.74	2%
J2783	Rasburicase	0.5 mg	\$106.04	\$111.41	5%
J1441	Filgrastim injection	480 mcg	\$274.40	\$292.35	7%
J0637	Caspofungin acetate	5 mg	\$28.78	\$32.50	13%
J1440	Filgrastim injection	300 mcg	\$162.41	\$184.27	13%
J0207	Amifostine	500 mg	\$395.75	\$452.68	14%
J2354	Octreotide injection, non-depot	25 mcg	\$3.72	\$4.38	18%
J8520	Capecitabine, oral	150 mg	\$2.96	\$3.63	23%
J2353	Octreotide injection, depot	1 mg	\$69.44	\$90.35	30%
Q0179	Ondansetron hcl oral	8 mg	\$26.12	\$34.53	32%

Table 3. Drugs Bundled by Medicare, No Separate Payment

	HCPCS Code	Short Description	HCPCS Code Dosage
<i>Antineoplastic</i>	J9120	Dactinomycin	0.5 mg
	J9190	Fluorouracil injection	500 mg
	J9360	Vinblastine sulfate injection	1 mg
	J9370	Vincristine sulfate injection	1 mg
	J9250	Methotrexate sodium injection	5 mg
<i>Supportive Care</i>	J0640	Leucovorin calcium injection	50 mg
	J0895	Deferoxamine mesylate injection	500 mg
	J1645	Dalteparin sodium	2,500 IU
	J1650	Enoxaparin sodium injection	10 mg
	J1655	Tinzaparin sodium injection	1,000 IU