Payment for remote patient monitoring is a work in progress, but significant gains have been made in the past year and even bigger ones are anticipated for January 1, 2019.

Until recently, many public and private health insurers have not provided coverage and payment for remote patient monitoring (RPM) services for chronic conditions. For example, Medicare plays a significant role in the financial feasibility of a practice’s RPM program, as a large percentage of the patient population who would benefit from RPM chronic care management are Medicare beneficiaries. The good news? Effective January 1, 2018, Medicare began coverage and payment for the collection and interpretation of physiologic data digitally stored and/or transmitted by the patient and/or caregiver to the physician or other qualified health care professional. (The Medicare payment for this service is $59.)

Even better news? Recently, the federal agency charged with administering the Medicare program has proposed, effective January 1, 2019, coverage and payment for newly established remote chronic care management codes including:

- Setup and patient education on the use of equipment used for remote monitoring of physiologic parameter(s) such as weight, blood pressure, pulse oximetry, respiratory flow rate. The proposed Medicare payment for this service is $21.
- Supply of device(s) that provide daily recording(s) or programmed alert(s) with transmission every 30 days for remote monitoring of physiologic parameter(s) such as weight, blood pressure, pulse oximetry, respiratory flow rate. The proposed Medicare payment for this service is $69.
- Remote physiologic monitoring treatment management services, 20 minutes or more of clinical staff/physician/other qualified health care professional time in a calendar month requiring interactive communication with the patient/caregiver during the month). The proposed Medicare payment for this service is $54.

For up-to-date information on remote patient monitoring reimbursements, please visit [link on the AMA’s website]

CPT® code 99091 (Collection and interpretation of physiologic data (e.g., ECG, blood pressure, glucose monitoring) digitally stored and/or transmitted by the patient and/or caregiver to the physician or other qualified health care professional, qualified by education, training, licensure/regulation (when applicable) requiring a minimum of 30 minutes of time, every 30 days).

CPT code 990X0 (Remote monitoring of physiologic parameter(s) (e.g., weight, blood pressure, pulse oximetry, respiratory flow rate), initial; setup and patient education on the use of equipment).

CPT code 990X1 (Remote monitoring of physiologic parameter(s) (e.g., weight, blood pressure, pulse oximetry, respiratory flow rate), initial; device(s) supply with daily recording(s) or programmed alert(s) transmission, every 30 days).

CPT code 994X9 (Remote physiologic monitoring treatment management services, 20 minutes or more of clinical staff/physician/other qualified health care professional time in a calendar month requiring interactive communication with the patient/caregiver during the month).