

## APRN Involvement in Medicare Part B Shows Continued Increases in 2010

Medicare Part B statistics on approved charges and services for 2010 have now been posted to the CMS website. APRNs who treated Medicare patients and directly billed Medicare carriers fee-for-service saw an increase in their approved charges of 13.8% over the 2009 totals. As a share of total Part B approved charges, APRNs increased to 1.8% over 2009's 1.6%.

The largest increase observed in approved charges was for nurse practitioners, whose approved charges increased 18.4%. The increase in approved charges for each of the four APRN roles exceeded the aggregate increase in Part B charges across all providers.

Approved services also increased for all APRN roles. The increase of 10.4% suggests APRNs provided a more intensive mix of services in 2010. Approved services in aggregate for APRNs also increased at a faster rate than the increase in Part B across all providers. Notably, CNS volume increased faster than approved charges.

When the 2011 statistics become available (fall 2012) one would expect CNM approved charges to have increased by more than 50% because of the PPACA change that raised their payments to 100% of the physician fee schedule amount from the previous rate of 65%. NPs and CNSs approved charges remain at 85% of the physician fee schedule amount.

<b>Medicare Part B APRN Approved Charges and Services, 2009/10</b>						
	Approved Charges			Approved Services		
	2009	2010	Δ	2009	2010	Δ
all APRNs	\$1,909,588,894	\$2,173,641,846	13.8%	34,797,121	38,407,148	10.4%
NPs	\$1,055,243,057	\$1,248,956,180	18.4%	28,193,018	31,334,965	11.1%
CRNAs	\$802,831,472	\$868,864,439	8.2%	5,575,132	5,906,403	5.9%
CNSs	\$50,074,618	\$54,272,466	8.4%	988,260	1,124,482	13.8%
CNMs	\$1,439,747	\$1,548,761	7.6%	40,711	41,298	1.4%
all Part B	\$117,923,909,555	\$122,907,422,044	4.2%	4,227,520,810	4,276,114,307	1.1%
APRN%	1.6%	1.8%		0.8%	0.9%	

Source:

2010 <https://www.cms.gov/MedicareFeeForSvcPartsAB/Downloads/Specialty2010.pdf>

2009 <http://www.cms.gov/MedicareFeeForSvcPartsAB/Downloads/Specialty2009.pdf>

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