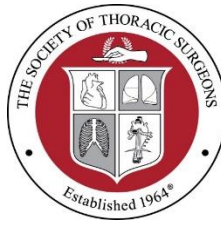


STS Headquarters

633 N Saint Clair St, Suite 2100
Chicago, IL 60611-3658
(312) 202-5800
sts@sts.org



Washington Office

20 F St NW, Suite 310 C
Washington, DC 20001-6702
(202) 787-1230
advocacy@sts.org

July 10, 2020

Seema Verma, MPH
Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
Department of Health and Human Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850

**Re: Fiscal Year 2021 Inpatient Prospective Payment System Proposed Rule—
Addendum Comments**

Dear Administrator Verma,

On behalf of The Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS), I write to provide supplementary information in addition to comments STS originally submitted on July 6, 2020 on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) Proposed Rule. Founded in 1964, The Society of Thoracic Surgeons is a not-for-profit organization representing more than 7,500 surgeons, researchers, and allied health care professionals worldwide who are dedicated to ensuring the best possible outcomes for surgeries of the heart, lungs, and esophagus, as well as other surgical procedures within the chest.

MS-DRG 215 Relative Weight Recalibration

STS recommends that CMS adopt a policy to address the proposed decrease in MS-DRG 215, with a preference for continuing the FY 2020 rate and that CMS work with relevant stakeholders to develop a permanent solution to this issue with MS-DRG 215 going forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments in addition to comments STS submitted on July 6, 2020. Please contact Courtney Yohe Savage, Director of Government Relations, at cyohe@sts.org or 202-787-1222 should you need additional information or clarification.

Sincerely,

Francis C. Nichols III, MD
Chair, Workforce on Coding and Reimbursement