

Spotlight on Research Fees: Procedure Fee Differences

By Rafael Campo

Procedure fees, as agreed between clinical research sponsors and sites, vary depending on numerous factors. The amount of variation differs by procedure. For example, as shown in the table below, there is very little difference between the 25th and 75th percentile prices for psychiatric history/interview exams, but wide differences in the price for a brief visit with vitals. Procedures with wider variation offer sponsors greater opportunities for economizing and sites greater opportunities for negotiation.

Differences in Fees for Selected Procedures

(All Therapeutic Areas, Phase II and Phase III, Industry-Sponsored Pharmaceutical and Biotechnology Studies at U.S. Research Sites, 2002-2005)¹

CPT Code ²	Procedure	Difference between 25 th & 75th Percentile*
90801	Psychiatric History/Interview Exam	1%
70450	Head or Brain CT Scan without Contrast	20%
93000	ECG with Interpretation & Report	33%
94010	Spirometry, Pulmonary Function Test	33%
99205	Initial Visit with History, Physical & Vitals	47%
81002	Dip Stick Urinalysis without Microscopy	67%
71250	Chest CT Scan without Contrast	73%
80299	Single Drug Level/PK, Any Source	100%
93784	Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring (ABPM), 24 Hours or More	135%
99211	Brief Visit with Vitals	140%

* 75th percentile value minus 25th percentile value, divided by 25th percentile value

References

1. Source: TrialSpace™ Grants Manager®, the PICAS® database

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