

## New 2008 Payment Rates for Services Paid Under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule and the Extension of the Participation Decision Period

The Medicare, Medicaid and SCHIP Extension Act of 2007 made several changes affecting payments to physicians. One such change provides for a 0.5 percent increase to the physician fee schedule conversion factor for dates of service beginning **January 1 through June 30, 2008**, instead of the (negative) -10.1 percent that was scheduled to take place. Effective for dates of service on and after **July 1, 2008**, the (negative) -10.1 percent update to the physician fee schedule will go into effect. The new fees will be posted on your local contractor's website as soon as possible.

Since there is a change to the 2008 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule rates, CMS is extending the Participation Decision Period an additional 45

days. The participation decision period now runs through **February 15, 2008**, instead of ending on December 31, 2007. All participating status changes will be effective January 1, 2008.

To become a participating physician, complete the CMS-460 form which can be found on the CD that was mailed to physicians in November. You can also request the form from your local contractor. The form must be completed, signed, and mailed to your local contractor and post-marked by February 15, 2008. If you are changing your participation status to non-participating, please send your request in a letter to your local contractor, post-marked by February 15, 2008. ■

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## Radiopharmaceutical Agents

There are now 2 radiopharmaceutical codes for Technetium TC-99m Exametazine: A9521 and A9569 effective January 1, 2008.

A9569 Technetium TC-99m Exametazine labeled autologous white blood cells, Diagnostic, per study dose, will be covered for infection detection studies (CPT 78805-78807).

A9521 Technetium Tc-99m Exametaz-

ine Diagnostic, per study dose, up to 25 mCi's, is covered for Brain perfusion studies. (CPT 78600-78607, 78607, 78610). CPT 78805-78807 will no longer be covered when billed with this agent.

A9501 Technetium Tc-99m Teboroxime, Diagnostic per study dose is currently not available for sale in the United States. It will be denied until it is back on the market. ■