Association for the Advancement of Blood & Biotherapies

CY 2027 Medicare Payment Final Rules: Key Provisions for Blood and Biotherapies

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) finalized its calendar year (CY) 2027 payment rates and policies under the Medicare hospital outpatient prospective payment system (OPPS) and the Medicare physician fee schedule (PFS). Both rules take effect January 1, 2027.

The OPPS final rule raises payments for most blood products, transfusion and apheresis procedures, transfusion laboratory services, and CAR T-cell therapies. However, it includes several policies that will reduce Medicare reimbursement for hospital outpatient departments generally. Over AABB's objection, CMS finalized its proposals to move software-based laboratory analyses off the clinical laboratory fee schedule (CLFS) to the OPPS and the PFS.

Medicare Hospital Outpatient Payment Rates

On November 6, CMS published in the *Federal Register* a final rule that raises Medicare payment rates for hospital outpatient services and ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs) by 2.3 percent in CY 2027, for facilities that meet quality reporting requirements. Other policies in the rule, however, will lower payments to many hospitals, such as:

- **Discounted drugs:** The 340B program lets certain hospitals buy outpatient drugs at a discount. Medicare will pay these hospitals 28 percent below a drug's average sales price, rather than 6 percent above it. CMS estimates that the final policy will cut Medicare drug spending by $4.35 billion in CY 2027.
- **Payback of earlier payments:** Courts overturned an earlier cut to 340B drug payments, and CMS repaid the affected hospitals. To offset the extra $7.8 billion it paid out for other outpatient services in those years, CMS will reduce payment for most non-drug outpatient services by 2 percent, up from 0.5 percent, until about CY 2031.
- **Imaging:** For imaging without contrast performed at certain hospital outpatient sites located away from the main hospital campus, Medicare will pay the same lower rate it pays physician offices.

CMS published a fact sheet summarizing key provisions in the final rule.

Blood and Blood Products

CMS will continue to set separate payment rates for blood and blood products using the blood-specific cost-to-charge ratio (CCR) methodology in place since 2005, with a simulated blood CCR for hospitals without a blood cost center. Blood products on the same claim as a service assigned to a comprehensive APC (C-APC) are not paid separately; their costs are included in the C-APC payment.

Final rates, listed in Table 1, are based on CY 2025 claims data. Payments increase for 32 of the 42 separately paid blood products, with a median increase of 7.6 percent. The largest increases apply to pooled solvent/detergent plasma (P9023, 92.0 percent), platelets (P9019, 66.7 percent), and whole blood (P9010, 37.9 percent). The largest decreases apply to single-donor pathogen-reduced plasma (P9071, 59.8 percent) and cryoprecipitate-reduced plasma (P9044, 51.0 percent).

Transfusion, Apheresis, Stem Cell Procedures, and Transfusion Laboratory Services

Final rates for transfusion, apheresis, and stem cell procedures are listed in Table 2. Payment increased for all 33 separately paid procedures, with a median increase of 11.6 percent. Payment for transfusion (CPT 36430, APC 5241) increased 11.6 percent, to $503.13, and payment for allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplantation (CPT 38240) increased 18.4 percent, to $76,106.16.

CMS also adjusted payment rates for transfusion laboratory services covered under the OPPS, which are summarized in Table 3. Payment increased for 33 of the 35 services, with a median increase of 12.7 percent. Payment for the direct antiglobulin test (CPT 86880), now assigned to APC 5734, increased 148.6 percent. Final rates for transfusion procedures and laboratory services are slightly lower than the proposed rates.

Cell and Gene Therapies

CMS will continue to exclude cell and gene therapies from C-APC packaging when those therapies are not integral, ancillary, supportive, dependent, or adjunctive to the primary C-APC service. When cell and gene therapies are administered, they represent the primary treatment and therefore qualify for separate payment.

Final payment rates for cell and gene therapies are listed in Table 4. Payment for CAR T-cell therapies increased between 3.3 percent and 8.8 percent. Rates for several gene therapies were unchanged or decreased slightly.

Medicare Physician Payment Rates

On November 9, CMS published in the Federal Register a final rule that sets 2027 Medicare payment rates for physicians and other clinicians. For qualifying participants in alternative payment models, payments will decrease 1.83 percent, and for all other practitioners, payments will decrease by 2.31 percent. The payments will go down because a one-year increase Congress approved for 2026 is ending. CMS' fact sheet summarizes the rule.

Final Payment Policy for Software as a Medical Service (SaMS) Laboratory Analyses

CMS finalized its proposal to reclassify stand-alone algorithmic analyses of prior laboratory test data, which it now calls software as a medical service (SaMS) laboratory analyses, from the clinical laboratory fee schedule (CLFS) to the OPPS and the PFS. Beginning January 1, 2027, CMS will pay for these services as "other diagnostic tests" rather than as laboratory tests. The final list includes 14 HCPCS codes, up from 10 in the proposed rule.

In comments on both the OPPS and PFS proposed rules, AABB urged CMS not to finalize this change. AABB recommended that CMS coordinate policy across CLIA, the PFS, the OPPS, and the CLFS, and complete its inquiry under the CLIA request for information before revising payment. AABB also noted that these services do not fit the resource-based methodology of the PFS and that the move would subject them to beneficiary cost-sharing and budget neutrality adjustments.

CMS acknowledged commenters' concerns but did not delay the policy. Under the OPPS, CMS assigned the services to New Technology APCs at rates based largely on CY 2026 CLFS rates, under a new status indicator (O1) that provides separate payment without multiple procedure discounting.

Under the PFS, CMS adopted national pricing derived from the OPPS rates instead of the proposed contractor pricing. Standard OPPS and PFS beneficiary cost-sharing will apply. CMS stated that the payment change does not revise CLIA requirements and described the CY 2027 policy as an interim step toward a longer-term framework it will consider for CY 2028.

For questions or to provide feedback on this summary, contact: advocacy@aabb.org

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Final CY 2027 Hospital Outpatient Payment Rates, Compared to CY 2026 Final Rates

The following tables compare CY 2027 final payment rates with the payment rates that took effect in January 2026. The CY 2027 rates are from Addendum B of the CMS CY 2027 OPPS final rule, and the CY 2026 rates are from AABB's summary of the CY 2026 OPPS final rule. All rates are national unadjusted rates. CMS releases updates to Addendum B quarterly.

Table 1. Blood and Blood Products

HCPCS Code	Short Descriptor	SI	APC	CY 2026 Final Payment	CY 2027 Final Payment	$ Change	% Change
P9010	Whole blood for transfusion	R	9510	$189.84	$261.72	+$71.88	+37.9%
P9011	Blood split unit	R	9520	$155.84	$163.86	+$8.02	+5.1%
P9012	Cryoprecipitate each unit	R	9511	$71.95	$80.20	+$8.25	+11.5%
P9016	Rbc leukocytes reduced	R	9512	$184.91	$197.36	+$12.45	+6.7%
P9017	Plasma 1 donor frz w/in 8 hr	R	9508	$85.98	$87.95	+$1.97	+2.3%
P9019	Platelets, each unit	R	9515	$53.17	$88.62	+$35.45	+66.7%
P9020	Plaelet rich plasma unit	R	9516	$559.79	$497.57	-$62.22	-11.1%
P9021	Red blood cells unit	R	9517	$150.57	$162.62	+$12.05	+8.0%
P9022	Washed red blood cells unit	R	9518	$368.58	$379.49	+$10.91	+3.0%
P9023	Frozen plasma, pooled, sd	R	9509	$55.96	$107.46	+$51.50	+92.0%
P9025	Plasma cryo redu path each	R	9538	$133.76	$143.34	+$9.58	+7.2%
P9026	Cryo fib comp path redu each	R	9539	$549.28	$561.81	+$12.53	+2.3%
P9027	Rbc o2 co2 reduced	R	9541	$511.59	$562.28	+$50.69	+9.9%
P9031	Platelets leukocytes reduced	R	9526	$144.26	$150.33	+$6.07	+4.2%
P9032	Platelets, irradiated	R	9500	$392.97	$383.73	-$9.24	-2.4%
P9033	Platelets leukoreduced irrad	R	9521	$189.59	$210.02	+$20.43	+10.8%
P9034	Platelets, pheresis	R	9507	$308.96	$432.20	+$123.24	+39.9%
P9035	Platelet pheres leukoreduced	R	9501	$511.59	$562.28	+$50.69	+9.9%
P9036	Platelet pheresis irradiated	R	9502	$949.13	$784.36	-$164.77	-17.4%
P9037	Plate pheres leukoredu irrad	R	9530	$680.61	$755.52	+$74.91	+11.0%
P9038	Rbc irradiated	R	9505	$145.22	$168.20	+$22.98	+15.8%
P9039	Rbc deglycerolized	R	9504	$313.00	$465.40	+$152.40	+48.7%
P9040	Rbc leukoreduced irradiated	R	9522	$265.41	$287.91	+$22.50	+8.5%
P9043	Plasma protein fract,5%,50ml	R	9514	$8.11	$8.70	+$0.59	+7.3%
P9044	Cryoprecipitatereducedplasma	R	9523	$132.05	$64.76	-$67.29	-51.0%
P9048	Plasmaprotein fract,5%,250ml	R	9519	$35.32	$37.87	+$2.55	+7.2%
P9050	Granulocytes, pheresis unit	E2	*Not paid by Medicare when submitted on outpatient claims (any outpatient bill type).*				
P9051	Blood, l/r, cmv-neg	R	9524	$151.58	$189.94	+$38.36	+25.3%
P9052	Platelets, hla-m, l/r, unit	R	9525	$708.06	$641.57	-$66.49	-9.4%
P9053	Plt, pher, l/r cmv-neg, irr	R	9531	$503.45	$609.08	+$105.63	+21.0%
P9054	Blood, l/r, froz/degly/wash	R	9527	$265.19	$335.61	+$70.42	+26.6%

HCPCS Code	Short Descriptor	SI	APC	CY 2026 Final Payment	CY 2027 Final Payment	$ Change	% Change
P9055	Plt, aph/pher, l/r, cmv-neg	R	9528	$250.49	$325.78	+$75.29	+30.1%
P9056	Blood, l/r, irradiated	R	9529	$84.55	$85.75	+$1.20	+1.4%
P9057	Rbc, frz/deg/wsh, l/r, irrad	R	9532	$422.69	$413.76	-$8.93	-2.1%
P9058	Rbc, l/r, cmv-neg, irrad	R	9533	$249.40	$313.31	+$63.91	+25.6%
P9059	Plasma, frz between 8-24hour	R	9513	$73.77	$87.60	+$13.83	+18.7%
P9060	Fr frz plasma donor retested	R	9503	$53.25	$52.90	-$0.35	-0.7%
P9070	Pathogen reduced plasma pool	R	9534	$55.78	$45.99	-$9.79	-17.6%
P9071	Pathogen reduced plasma sing	R	9535	$294.48	$118.39	-$176.09	-59.8%
P9073	Platelets pheresis path redu	R	9536	$607.43	$624.11	+$16.68	+2.7%
P9099	Blood component/product noc	R	9537	$35.32	$45.99	+$10.67	+30.2%
P9100	Pathogen test for platelets	S	5733	$60.27	$65.60	+$5.33	+8.8%
C9507	Covid-19 convalescent plasma	R	9540	$680.03	$411.18	-$268.85	-39.5%

Table 2. Transfusion, Apheresis, and Stem Cell Procedures

HCPCS Code	Short Descriptor	SI	APC	CY 2026 Final Payment	CY 2027 Final Payment	$ Change	% Change
36430	Transfusion bld/bld compnt	S	5241	$450.73	$503.13	+$52.40	+11.6%
36440	Bld push tfuj 2 yr/<	S	5241	$450.73	$503.13	+$52.40	+11.6%
36450	Bld exchange truj newborn	S	5241	$450.73	$503.13	+$52.40	+11.6%
36455	Bld exchange truj oth thn nb	S	5241	$450.73	$503.13	+$52.40	+11.6%
36456	Prtl exchange transfuse nb	S	5241	$450.73	$503.13	+$52.40	+11.6%
36460	Intrauterine transfusion ftl	S	5241	$450.73	$503.13	+$52.40	+11.6%
36511	Apheresis wbc	S	5242	$1,591.16	$1,791.18	+$200.02	+12.6%
36512	Apheresis rbc	S	5242	$1,591.16	$1,791.18	+$200.02	+12.6%
36513	Apheresis platelets	S	5241	$450.73	$503.13	+$52.40	+11.6%
36514	Apheresis plasma	S	5242	$1,591.16	$1,791.18	+$200.02	+12.6%
36516	Apheresis immunoads slctv	S	5243	$4,449.84	$4,812.16	+$362.32	+8.1%
36522	Photopheresis	S	5243	$4,449.84	$4,812.16	+$362.32	+8.1%
38205	Harvest allogeneic stem cell	B	*Not paid under OPPS*				
38206	Harvest auto stem cells	S	5242	$1,591.16	$1,791.18	+$200.02	+12.6%
38207	Cryopreserve stem cells	S	5241	$450.73	$503.13	+$52.40	+11.6%
38208	Thaw preserved stem cells	S	5241	$450.73	$503.13	+$52.40	+11.6%
38209	Wash harvest stem cells	S	5241	$450.73	$503.13	+$52.40	+11.6%
38210	T-cell depletion of harvest	S	5241	$450.73	$503.13	+$52.40	+11.6%
38211	Tumor cell deplete of harvst	S	5241	$450.73	$503.13	+$52.40	+11.6%
38212	Rbc depletion of harvest	S	5241	$450.73	$503.13	+$52.40	+11.6%
38213	Platelet deplete of harvest	S	5241	$450.73	$503.13	+$52.40	+11.6%
38214	Volume deplete of harvest	S	5241	$450.73	$503.13	+$52.40	+11.6%
38215	Harvest stem cell concentrte	S	5241	$450.73	$503.13	+$52.40	+11.6%
38220	Dx bone marrow aspirations	J1	5072	$1,687.37	$1,875.91	+$188.54	+11.2%

HCPCS Code	Short Descriptor	SI	APC	CY 2026 Final Payment	CY 2027 Final Payment	$ Change	% Change
38221	Dx bone marrow biopsies	J1	5072	$1,687.37	$1,875.91	+$188.54	+11.2%
38222	Dx bone marrow bx & aspir	J1	5073	$2,967.63	$3,324.30	+$356.67	+12.0%
38225	Car-t hrv bld-drv t lymphcyt	B	*Not paid under OPPS*				
38226	Car-t prep t lymphcyt f/trns	B	*Not paid under OPPS*				
38227	Car-t receipt&prepj admn	B	*Not paid under OPPS*				
38228	Car-t admn autologous	S	5694	$337.46	$364.49	+$27.03	+8.0%
38230	Bone marrow harvest allogen	S	5242	$1,591.16	$1,791.18	+$200.02	+12.6%
38232	Bone marrow harvest autolog	S	5243	$4,449.84	$4,812.16	+$362.32	+8.1%
38240	Transplt allo hct/donor	J1	5244	$64,263.52	$76,106.16	+$11,842.64	+18.4%
38241	Transplt autol hct/donor	S	5242	$1,591.16	$1,791.18	+$200.02	+12.6%
38242	Transplt allo lymphocytes	S	5242	$1,591.16	$1,791.18	+$200.02	+12.6%
38243	Transplj hematopoietic boost	S	5242	$1,591.16	$1,791.18	+$200.02	+12.6%
88184	Flow cytometry/tc 1st marker	Q2	5673	$366.21	$399.09	+$32.88	+9.0%
88185	Flow cytometry/tc ea addl	N	*Paid under OPPS; payment is packaged into payment for other services. Therefore, there is no separate APC payment.*				
88187	Flowcytometry/read 2-8	B	*Not paid under OPPS*				
88188	Flowcytometry/read 9-15	B	*Not paid under OPPS*				
88189	Flowcytometry/read 16 & >	B	*Not paid under OPPS*				

Table 3. Transfusion Laboratory Services

HCPCS Code	Short Descriptor	SI	APC	CY 2026 Final Payment	CY 2027 Final Payment	$ Change	% Change
86850	Rbc antibody screen	Q1	5671	$53.24	$56.70	+$3.46	+6.5%
86860	Rbc antibody elution	Q1	5672	$174.06	$196.19	+$22.13	+12.7%
86870	Rbc antibody identification	Q2	5673	$366.21	$399.09	+$32.88	+9.0%
86880	Coombs test direct	Q1	5734	$60.27	$149.81	+$89.54	+148.6%
86885	Coombs test indirect qual	Q1	5672	$174.06	$196.19	+$22.13	+12.7%
86886	Coombs test indirect titer	Q1	5672	$174.06	$196.19	+$22.13	+12.7%
86890	Autologous blood process	Q1	5672	$174.06	$196.19	+$22.13	+12.7%
86891	Autologous blood op salvage	Q1	5674	$823.13	$940.55	+$117.42	+14.3%
86900	Blood typing serologic abo	Q1	5734	$135.93	$149.81	+$13.88	+10.2%
86901	Blood typing serologic rh(d)	Q1	5732	$38.16	$40.70	+$2.54	+6.7%
86902	Blood type antigen donor ea	Q1	5673	$366.21	$399.09	+$32.88	+9.0%
86904	Blood typing patient serum	Q1	5733	$60.27	$65.60	+$5.33	+8.8%
86905	Blood typing rbc antigens	Q1	5673	$366.21	$399.09	+$32.88	+9.0%
86906	Bld typing serologic rh phnt	Q1	5732	$38.16	$40.70	+$2.54	+6.7%
86920	Compatibility test spin	Q1	5672	$174.06	$196.19	+$22.13	+12.7%
86921	Compatibility test incubate	Q1	5672	$174.06	$196.19	+$22.13	+12.7%
86922	Compatibility test antiglob	Q1	5672	$174.06	$196.19	+$22.13	+12.7%
86923	Compatibility test electric	Q1	5672	$174.06	$196.19	+$22.13	+12.7%

HCPCS Code	Short Descriptor	SI	APC	CY 2026 Final Payment	CY 2027 Final Payment	$ Change	% Change
86927	Plasma fresh frozen	S	5672	$174.06	$196.19	+$22.13	+12.7%
86930	Frozen blood prep	Q1	5672	$174.06	$196.19	+$22.13	+12.7%
86931	Frozen blood thaw	Q1	5672	$174.06	$196.19	+$22.13	+12.7%
86932	Frozen blood freeze/thaw	Q1	5732	$38.16	$40.70	+$2.54	+6.7%
86945	Blood product/irradiation	Q1	5732	$38.16	$40.70	+$2.54	+6.7%
86950	Leukacyte transfusion	Q1	5672	$174.06	$196.19	+$22.13	+12.7%
86960	Vol reduction of blood/prod	Q1	5672	$174.06	$196.19	+$22.13	+12.7%
86965	Pooling blood platelets	Q1	5672	$174.06	$196.19	+$22.13	+12.7%
86970	Rbc pretx incubatj w/chemicl	Q1	5733	$60.27	$65.60	+$5.33	+8.8%
86971	Rbc pretx incubatj w/enzymes	Q1	5672	$174.06	$196.19	+$22.13	+12.7%
86972	Rbc pretx incubatj w/density	Q1	5672	$174.06	$196.19	+$22.13	+12.7%
86975	Rbc serum pretx incubj drugs	Q1	5735	$456.40	$492.55	+$36.15	+7.9%
86976	Rbc serum pretx id dilution	Q1	5731	$29.55	$28.91	-$0.64	-2.2%
86977	Rbc serum pretx incubj/inhib	Q1	5672	$174.06	$196.19	+$22.13	+12.7%
86978	Rbc pretreatment serum	Q1	5733	$60.27	$65.60	+$5.33	+8.8%
86985	Split blood or products	Q1	5672	$174.06	$196.19	+$22.13	+12.7%
86999	Unlisted transfusion med px	Q1	5731	$29.55	$28.91	-$0.64	-2.2%

Table 4. CAR T-Cell Therapies

HCPCS Code	Short Descriptor	Trade Name	SI	APC	CY 2026 Final Payment	CY 2027 Final Payment	$ Change	% Change
Q2041	Axicabtagene ciloleucel car+	Yescarta	K	9035	$533,230.17	$577,943.26	+$44,713.09	+8.4%
Q2042	Tisagenlecleucel car-pos t	Kymriah	K	9194	$591,726.20	$626,315.83	+$34,589.63	+5.8%
Q2043	Sipuleucel-t auto cd54+	Provenge	K	9273	$55,272.32	$55,663.13	+$390.81	+0.7%
Q2053	Brexucabtagene car pos t	Tecartus	K	9391	$489,304.61	$532,352.74	+$43,048.13	+8.8%
Q2054	Lisocabtagene mara car pos t	Breyanzi	K	9413	$562,538.19	$589,846.77	+$27,308.58	+4.9%
Q2055	Idecabtagene vicleucel car	Abecma	K	9422	$557,317.93	$575,850.46	+$18,532.53	+3.3%
Q2056	Ciltacabtagene car-pos t	CARVYKTI	K	9498	$565,868.95	$594,112.26	+$28,243.31	+5.0%
Q2057	Afamitresgene autoleucel	Tecelra	G	2067	$770,620.00	$813,967.38	+$43,347.38	+5.6%
Q2058	Obecbtge autol up to 400 mil	Aucatzyl	G	0831	$278,250.00	$293,725.70	+$15,475.70	+5.6%
J3387	Inj elivaldogene autotemecel	Skysona	K	0906	$3,180,000.00	$3,180,000.00	$0.00	0.0%
J3391	Inj, atidarsagene autotemcel	Lenmeldy	K	0845	$4,505,000.00	$4,505,000.00	$0.00	0.0%

HCPCS Code	Short Descriptor	Trade Name	SI	APC	CY 2026 Final Payment	CY 2027 Final Payment	$ Change	% Change
J3392	Inj, exagamglogene autotem	CASGEVY	K	0824	$2,332,000.00	$2,318,674.29	-$13,325.71	-0.6%
J3398	Inj luxturna 1 billion vec g	Luxturna	K	9070	$3,070.089	$3,158.14	+$88.05	+2.9%
J3399	Inj onase abepar-xioi treat	Zolgensma	K	9141	$2,587,087.00	$2,679,817.05	+$92,730.05	+3.6%
J3402	Inj. remestemcel-l-rknd/ td	Ryoncil	K	0886	$202,713.00	$202,159.94	-$553.06	-0.3%
J1411	Inj, hemgenix, per tx dose	Hemgenix	K	9138	$3,691,450.00	$3,691,450.00	$0.00	0.0%