

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services CY 2026 Medicare Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) Final Rule Summary and Payment Rates

On November 21, 2025, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released a [final rule](#) updating Medicare payment rates and policies under the hospital outpatient prospective payment system (OPPS) and the ambulatory surgical center payment system for calendar year (CY) 2026. CMS finalized a 2.6 percent increase to all OPPS payment rates, reflecting a 3.3 percent market basket update offset by a 0.7 percent productivity adjustment. **The final rule is effective on January 1, 2026.**

Payment Policies and Rates for Blood and Blood Components, Transfusion Medicine and Cellular Therapies

CMS finalized its proposal to continue using the longstanding blood-specific cost-to-charge ratio (CCR) methodology, in place since 2005, to establish separate payment rates for blood and blood products through ambulatory payment classifications (APCs). This methodology applies actual or simulated CCRs from the most recent hospital cost reports to convert charges for blood and blood products into estimated costs.

CMS will also continue to apply the blood-specific CCR methodology to calculate costs for blood and blood products that appear on claims with services assigned to comprehensive ambulatory payment classifications (C-APCs). Under the C-APC policy, payment for items and services that are integral, ancillary, supportive, dependent, or adjunctive to the primary service is packaged into a single C-APC payment. When a blood product appears on the same claim as a C-APC service, the blood product cost is included in the overall C-APC payment calculation but **does not** receive a separate payment.

For CY 2026, CMS finalized the use of CY 2024 claims data and cost reports to establish payment rates for blood products, transfusion services, apheresis, stem cell procedures, and transfusion laboratory services. This represents a two-year lag between the data collection period and the payment year. The final payment rates can be found in the tables below.

Exclusion of Cell and Gene Therapies from C-APC

CMS finalized its policy to continue excluding cell and gene therapies from C-APC packaging. Cell and gene therapies are excluded from C-APC packaging when they are not integral, ancillary, supportive, dependent, or adjunctive to the primary C-APC service. CMS recognizes these products as the primary treatment rather than ancillary services.

Cell and gene therapy products excluded from C-APC packaging for CY 2026 include:

- Q2056: Ciltacabtagene autoleucel (CAR-T therapy) - *newly added for CY 2026*
- Q2041: Axicabtagene ciloleucel (CAR-T therapy)
- Q2042: Tisagenlecleucel (CAR-T therapy)
- Q2053: Lisocabtagene maraleucel (CAR-T therapy)
- Q2054: Brexucabtagene autoleucel (CAR-T therapy)
- Q2055: Idecabtagene vicleucel (CAR-T therapy)
- Q2043: Sipuleucel-T (cellular immunotherapy)

Additional cell and gene therapy products will be added on a quarterly basis as new HCPCS codes are established.

**Method to Control Unnecessary Increases in the Volume of Outpatient Services Furnished in
Excepted Off-Campus Provider-Based Departments (PBDs)**

CMS finalized a policy to apply the Medicare physician fee schedule (PFS) equivalent rates to certain drug administration services furnished in excepted off-campus PBDs. Payments for these services will be **reduced to 40 percent of the OPPS rate**, with Sole Community Hospitals exempt from the policy. It is our understanding that this policy does not directly impact transfusion services and biotherapies at this time.

CMS estimates this change will reduce hospital payments by approximately \$290 million in CY 2026, reflecting the agency's ongoing efforts to address site-of-service payment differentials that may shift services from lower cost office settings to higher cost outpatient hospital settings. CMS maintains that such incentives have contributed to unnecessary growth in outpatient service volume.

* * * * *

If you have any feedback or questions on the final rule, please email advocacy@aabb.org.

Table 1. Blood and Blood Products

HCPCS Code	Short Descriptor	2026 SI	2026 APC	Final 2025 Payment	Final 2026 Payment Rate	\$ Change 2025-2026	% Change 2025-2026
P9010	Whole blood for transfusion	R	9510	\$225.12	\$189.84	-\$35.28	-15.7%
P9011	Blood split unit	R	9520	\$141.80	\$155.84	\$14.04	9.9%
P9012	Cryoprecipitate each unit	R	9511	\$63.57	\$71.95	\$8.38	13.2%
P9016	Rbc leukocytes reduced	R	9512	\$182.00	\$184.91	\$2.91	1.6%
P9017	Plasma 1 donor frz w/in 8 hr	R	9508	\$84.29	\$85.98	\$1.69	2.0%
P9019	Platelets, each unit	R	9515	\$75.96	\$53.17	-\$22.79	-30.0%
P9020	Platelet rich plasma unit	R	9516	\$557.32	\$559.79	\$2.47	0.4%
P9021	Red blood cells unit	R	9517	\$144.32	\$150.57	\$6.25	4.3%
P9022	Washed red blood cells unit	R	9518	\$396.87	\$368.58	-\$28.29	-7.1%
P9023	Frozen plasma, pooled, sd	R	9509	\$62.31	\$55.96	-\$6.35	-10.2%
P9025	Plasma cryo redu path each	R	9538	\$135.15	\$133.76	-\$1.39	-1.0%
P9026	Cryo fib comp path redu each	R	9539	\$313.77	\$549.28	\$235.51	75.1%
P9027	RBC O2 CO2 Reduced	R	9541	\$487.10	\$511.59	\$24.49	5.0%
P9031	Platelets leukocytes reduced	R	9538	\$125.77	\$144.26	\$18.49	14.7%
P9032	Platelets, irradiated	R	9539	\$135.78	\$392.97	\$257.19	189.4%
P9033	Platelets leukoreduced irradi	R	9526	\$205.39	\$189.59	-\$15.80	-7.7%
P9034	Platelets, pheresis	R	9500	\$397.13	\$308.96	-\$88.17	-22.2%
P9035	Platelet pheres leukoreduced	R	9521	\$487.10	\$511.59	\$24.49	5.0%
P9036	Platelet pheresis irradiated	R	9507	\$587.65	\$949.13	\$361.48	61.5%
P9037	Plate pheres leukoredu irradi	R	9501	\$675.66	\$680.61	\$4.95	0.7%
P9038	Rbc irradiated	R	9502	\$149.22	\$145.22	-\$4.00	-2.7%
P9039	Rbc deglycerolized	R	9530	\$653.74	\$313.00	-\$340.74	-52.1%
P9040	Rbc leukoreduced irradiated	R	9505	\$255.80	\$265.41	\$9.61	3.8%
P9043	Plasma protein fract,5%,50ml	R	9504	\$8.07	\$8.11	\$0.04	0.5%
P9044	Cryoprecipitatereducedplasma	R	9522	\$147.30	\$132.05	-\$15.25	-10.4%
P9048	Plasmaprotein fract,5%,250ml	R	9514	\$73.72	\$35.32	-\$38.40	-52.1%
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	\$172.20	\$151.58	-\$20.62	-12.0%
P9052	Platelets, hla-m, l/r, unit	R	9525	\$777.49	\$708.06	-\$69.43	-8.9%
P9053	Plt, pher, l/r cmv-neg, irr	R	9531	\$459.23	\$503.45	\$44.22	9.6%
P9054	Blood, l/r, froz/degly/wash	R	9527	\$242.44	\$265.19	\$22.75	9.4%
P9055	Plt, aph/pher, l/r, cmv-neg	R	9528	\$227.25	\$250.49	\$23.24	10.2%
P9056	Blood, l/r, irradiated	R	9529	\$84.17	\$84.55	\$0.38	0.5%
P9057	Rbc, frz/deg/wsh, l/r, irradi	R	9532	\$485.37	\$422.69	-\$62.68	-12.9%
P9058	Rbc, l/r, cmv-neg, irradi	R	9533	\$222.86	\$249.40	\$26.54	11.9%
P9059	Plasma, frz between 8-24hour	R	9513	\$71.09	\$73.77	\$2.68	3.8%
P9060	Fr frz plasma donor retested	R	9503	\$48.93	\$53.25	\$4.32	8.8%

Table 1 (continued). Blood and Blood Products

HCPCS Code	Short Descriptor	2026 SI	2026 APC	Final 2025 Payment	Final 2026 Payment Rate	\$ Change 2025-2026	% Change 2025-2026
P9070	Pathogen reduced plasma pool	R	9534	\$56.11	\$55.78	-\$0.33	-0.6%
P9071	Pathogen reduced plasma sing	R	9535	\$292.53	\$294.48	\$1.95	0.7%
P9073	Platelets pheresis path redu	R	9536	\$587.28	\$607.43	\$20.15	3.4%
P9099	Blood component/product noc	R	9537	\$48.93	\$35.32	-\$13.61	-27.8%
P9100	Pathogen test for platelets	S	5733	\$59.40	\$60.27	\$0.87	1.5%
C9507	COVID-19 convalescent plasma	R	9540	\$425.62	\$680.03	\$254.41	59.8%

Table 2. Transfusion, Apheresis, and Stem Cell Procedures

HCPCS Code	Short Descriptor	2026 SI	2026 APC	Final 2025 Payment	Final 2026 Payment Rate	\$ Change 2025-2026	% Change 2025-2026
36430	Blood transfusion service	S	5241	\$437.18	\$450.73	\$13.55	3.1%
36440	Bl push transfuse 2 yr/<	S	5241	\$437.18	\$450.73	\$13.55	3.1%
36450	Bl exchange/transfuse nb	S	5241	\$437.18	\$450.73	\$13.55	3.1%
36455	Bl exchange/transfuse non-nb	S	5241	\$437.18	\$450.73	\$13.55	3.1%
36456	Prtl exchange transfuse nb	S	5241	\$437.18	\$450.73	\$13.55	3.1%
36460	Transfusion service fetal	S	5241	\$437.18	\$450.73	\$13.55	3.1%
36511	Apheresis wbc	S	5242	\$1,639.28	\$1,591.16	-\$48.12	-2.9%
36512	Apheresis rbc	S	5242	\$1,639.28	\$1,591.16	-\$48.12	-2.9%
36513	Apheresis platelets	S	5241	\$437.18	\$450.73	\$13.55	3.1%
36514	Apheresis plasma	S	5242	\$1,639.28	\$1,591.16	-\$48.12	-2.9%
36516	Apheresis immunoads slctv	S	5243	\$4,685.17	\$4,449.84	-\$235.33	-5.0%
36522	Photopheresis	S	5243	\$4,685.17	\$4,449.84	-\$235.33	-5.0%
38205	Harvest allogeneic stem cell	B	Not paid under OPPS				
38206	Harvest auto stem cells	S	5242	\$1,639.28	\$1,591.16	-\$48.12	-2.9%
38207	Cryopreserve stem cells	S	5241	\$437.18	\$450.73	\$13.55	3.1%
38208	Thaw preserved stem cells	S	5241	\$437.18	\$450.73	\$13.55	3.1%
38209	Wash harvest stem cells	S	5241	\$437.18	\$450.73	\$13.55	3.1%
38210	T-cell depletion of harvest	S	5241	\$437.18	\$450.73	\$13.55	3.1%
38211	Tumor cell deplete of harvest	S	5241	\$437.18	\$450.73	\$13.55	3.1%
38212	Rbc depletion of harvest	S	5241	\$437.18	\$450.73	\$13.55	3.1%
38213	Platelet deplete of harvest	S	5241	\$437.18	\$450.73	\$13.55	3.1%
38214	Volume deplete of harvest	S	5241	\$437.18	\$450.73	\$13.55	3.1%
38215	Harvest stem cell concentrate	S	5241	\$437.18	\$450.73	\$13.55	3.1%
38220	Dx bone marrow aspirations	J1	5072	\$1,620.24	\$1,687.37	\$67.13	4.1%
38221	Dx bone marrow biopsies	J1	5072	\$1,620.24	\$1,687.37	\$67.13	4.1%
38222	Dx bone marrow bx & aspir	J1	5072	\$2,862.05	\$2,967.63	\$105.58	3.7%
38225	Car-t hrv bld-driv 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	\$331.69	\$337.46	\$5.77	1.7%
38230	Bone marrow harvest allogeneic	S	5242	\$1,639.28	\$1,591.16	-\$48.12	-2.9%
38232	Bone marrow harvest autolog	S	5243	\$4,685.17	\$4,449.84	-\$235.33	-5.0%
38240	Transplt allo hct/donor	J1	5244	\$59,142.33	\$64,263.52	\$5,121.19	8.7%
38241	Transplt autol hct/donor	S	5242	\$1,639.28	\$1,591.16	-\$48.12	-2.9%
38242	Transplt allo lymphocytes	S	5242	\$1,639.28	\$1,591.16	-\$48.12	-2.9%
38243	Transplt hematopoietic boost	S	5242	\$1,639.28	\$1,591.16	-\$48.12	-2.9%
88184	Flowcytometry/ tc 1 marker	Q2	5673	\$359.72	\$366.21	\$6.49	1.8%

Table 2 (continued). Transfusion, Apheresis, and Stem Cell Procedures

HCPCS Code	Short Descriptor	2026 SI	2026 APC	Final 2025 Payment	Final 2026 Payment Rate	\$ Change 2025-2026	% Change 2025-2026
88185	Flowcytometry/tc add-on	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	2026SI	2026 APC	Final 2025 Payment	Final 2026 Payment Rate	\$ Change 2025-2026	% Change 2025-2026
86850	Rbc antibody screen	Q1	5671	\$53.43	\$53.24	-\$0.19	-0.4%
86860	Rbc antibody elution	Q1	5672	\$171.36	\$174.06	\$2.70	1.6%
86870	Rbc antibody identification	Q2	5673	\$359.72	\$366.21	\$6.49	1.8%
86880	Coombs test direct	Q1	5733	\$59.40	\$60.27	\$0.87	1.5%
86885	Coombs test indirect qual	Q1	5672	\$171.36	\$174.06	\$2.70	1.6%
86886	Coombs test indirect titer	Q1	5672	\$171.36	\$174.06	\$2.70	1.6%
86890	Autologous blood process	Q1	5672	\$171.36	\$174.06	\$2.70	1.6%
86891	Autologous blood op salvage	Q1	5674	\$816.90	\$823.13	\$6.23	0.8%
86900	Blood typing serologic abo	Q1	5734	\$128.90	\$135.93	\$7.03	5.5%
86901	Blood typing serologic rh(d)	Q1	5732	\$39.25	\$38.16	-\$1.09	-2.8%
86902	Blood type antigen donor ea	Q1	5673	\$359.72	\$366.21	\$6.49	1.8%
86904	Blood typing patient serum	Q1	5732	\$59.40	\$60.27	\$0.87	1.5%
86905	Blood typing rbc antigens	Q1	5673	\$359.72	\$366.21	\$6.49	1.8%
86906	Bld typing serologic rh phnt	Q1	5732	\$39.25	\$38.16	-\$1.09	-2.8%
86920	Compatibility test spin	Q1	5672	\$171.36	\$174.06	\$2.70	1.6%
86921	Compatibility test incubate	Q1	5672	\$171.36	\$174.06	\$2.70	1.6%
86922	Compatibility test antiglob	Q1	5672	\$171.36	\$174.06	\$2.70	1.6%
86923	Compatibility test electric	Q1	5672	\$171.36	\$174.06	\$2.70	1.6%
86927	Plasma fresh frozen	S	5672	\$171.36	\$174.06	\$2.70	1.6%
86930	Frozen blood prep	Q1	5673	\$171.36	\$174.06	\$2.70	1.6%
86931	Frozen blood thaw	Q1	5673	\$171.36	\$174.06	\$2.70	1.6%
86932	Frozen blood freeze/thaw	Q1	5732	\$39.25	\$38.16	-\$1.09	-2.8%
86945	Blood product/irradiation	Q1	5732	\$39.25	\$38.16	-\$1.09	-2.8%
86950	Leukocyte transfusion	Q1	5672	\$171.36	\$174.06	\$2.70	1.6%
86960	Vol reduction of blood/prod	Q1	5672	\$171.36	\$174.06	\$2.70	1.6%
86965	Pooling blood platelets	Q1	5672	\$171.36	\$174.06	\$2.70	1.6%
86970	Rbc pretx incubatj w/chemical	Q1	5732	\$59.40	\$60.27	\$0.87	1.5%
86971	Rbc pretx incubatj w/enzymes	Q1	5673	\$171.36	\$174.06	\$2.70	1.6%
86972	Rbc pretx incubatj w/density	Q1	5672	\$171.36	\$174.06	\$2.70	1.6%
86975	Rbc serum pretx incubj drugs	Q1	5735	\$399.04	\$456.40	\$57.36	14.4%
86976	Rbc serum pretx id dilution	Q1	5731	\$24.49	\$29.55	\$5.06	20.7%
86977	Rbc serum pretx incubj/inhib	Q1	5672	\$171.36	\$174.06	\$2.70	1.6%
86978	Rbc pretreatment serum	Q1	5732	\$59.40	\$60.27	\$0.87	1.5%
86985	Split blood or products	Q1	5672	\$171.36	\$174.06	\$2.70	1.6%
86999	Unlisted transfusion procedure	Q1	5731	\$24.49	\$29.55	\$5.06	20.7%

Table 4. CAR T-Cell Therapies

HCPCS Code	Short Descriptor	2026 SI	2025 APC	Final 2025 Payment	Final 2026 Payment Rate	\$ Change 2025-2026	% Change 2025-2026
Q2041	Axicabtagene ciloleucel car+	K	9035	\$489,455.958	\$533,230.171	\$43,774.21	8.9%
Q2042	Tisagenlecleucel car pos t	K	9194	\$529,192.855	\$591,726.201	\$62,533.35	11.8%
Q2043	Sipuleucel-t auto cd54+	K	9273	\$55,015.225	\$55,272.324	\$257.10	0.5%
Q2053	Brexucabtagene car pos t	K	9391	\$460,530.402	\$489,304.608	\$28,774.21	6.2%
Q2054	Lisocabtagene maraleucel, car pos t	K	9413	\$516,726.076	\$562,538.185	\$45,812.11	8.9%
Q2055	Idecabtagene vicleucel car	K	9422	\$526,587.593	\$557,317.934	\$30,730.34	5.8%
Q2056	Ciltacabtagene car-pos t	K	9498	\$527,123.433	\$565,868.945	\$38,745.51	7.4%
Q2058	Afamitresgene autoleucel	G	2067	NA	\$770,620.000	NA	NA
Q2059	Obechtge autol up to 400 mil	G	0831	NA	\$278,250.000	NA	NA