Medicare

Fast Facts 2021
Proposed Medicare Changes for Holter

New Holter services are coming	Extended wear Holter(EWH) with monitoring lengths of 3-7 days and 8+ days would be covered by Medicare starting January 2021.
Extended wear Holter would gain uniform national coverage	All US locations would have the ability to seek payment for these services.
Rates for EWH would increase for 2021	The current proposal from CMS would establish reimbursement that is meaningfully higher than the current, negotiated rates for these services.
Traditional Holter should be mostly unaffected	
Non-physician providers would be able to supervise diagnostic testing	CNM, CNS, NP, and PA would be able to prescribe and bill for services including MCT and EWH.
The Proposed Rules are subject to change	Changes from the initial CMS proposals are likely, especially regarding service cost calculations and reimbursement dollar amounts.
Final Rules expected in mid-November	Historically CMS publishes a final version of the Physician Fee Schedule in November, after taking public comments on the proposed rules into consideration.
BioTel Heart is a full-service provider	Our platform combines ambulatory ECG testing via traditional and extended Holter, Event monitoring and MCT combined with cardiac device management for your ILR and pacemaker and ICD patients.
Offers three billing models	With the ePatch™ EWH monitor from BioTel Heart®, customers can choose split fee or fee for service billing, or as a direct purchase model.
No need for the patient to return the Holter to your office	BioTel Heart's ePatch can be returned for scanning using USPS return mailers, eliminating the need for your staff to handle, disinfect and process the hardware.
Office upload of the Holter data is also available	If you're looking for faster access to the data, BioTelemetry also gives you the ability to upload data directly from your office to our secure clinical processing center.

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Frequently Asked Questions

What are the 2021 Holter categories and codes?

Starting January 1, 2021, Holter services are to be categorized by length of monitoring

Codes: 1-2 days‡	Codes: 3-7 days‡	Codes: 8+ days‡
93224 Heart rhythm tracing, analysis, and interpretation of 48-hour EKG, includes recording, scanning analysis with report	**93241** External electrocardiographic recording for more than 48 hours up to 7 days by continuous rhythm recording and storage; includes recording, scanning analysis with report, review and interpretation	**93245** External electrocardiographic recording for more than 7 days up to 15 days by continuous rhythm recording and storage; includes recording, scanning analysis with report, review and interpretation
93225 Heart rhythm tracing of 48-hour EKG	**93242** External electrocardiographic recording for more than 48 hours up to 7 days by continuous rhythm recording and storage; recording (includes connection and initial recording)	**93246** External electrocardiographic recording for more than 7 days up to 15 days by continuous rhythm recording and storage; recording (includes connection and initial recording)
93226 Heart rhythm analysis, interpretation and report of 48-hour EKG	**93243** External electrocardiographic recording for more than 48 hours up to 7 days by continuous rhythm recording and storage; scanning analysis with repor	**93247** External electrocardiographic recording for more than 7 days up to 15 days by continuous rhythm recording and storage; scanning analysis with report
93227 Heart rhythm tracing, analysis, and interpretation of 48-hour EKG	**93244** External electrocardiographic recording for more than 48 hours up to 7 days by continuous rhythm recording and storage; review and interpretation	**93248** External electrocardiographic recording for more than 7 days up to 15 days by continuous rhythm recording and storage; review and interpretation

BioTel Heart is preparing to deliver diagnostic services that meet the coding requirements for the new categories once they become active.

How does this work for remote patient or telemedicine uses?

BioTel Heart's Home Connect program allows patients to receive our ePatch EWH device through a simple workflow that is accessed directly through our web portal. Enroll patients, access and interpret reports anywhere you have an internet connection.

When will the final CMS rates be published?

Final CMS rates won't be known until December 2020. Like most other CMS rates, the allowed dollar amounts for the new services will also vary by location.

We own our Holter, what would it take to add extended wear Holter to that system?

Adding EWH requires devices capable of capturing a week or two of data. There is also an additional effort required to analyze those recordings – the CMS proposal estimates technician scanning times of 95 minutes for the 3-7 day Holter, and 123 minutes for 8+ days. Using the BioTel Heart ePatch for your EWH eliminates the practice costs for hardware, upload and data analysis..

Will all payors cover the new services?

The plans of the commercial payors have yet to be announced. Not all payors allow for extended wear Holter in their medical policies or may require pre-authorization for these services. BioTel Heart has over 650 payor contracts, many covering extended wear Holter, which means that fewer patients end up with unexpected, out-of-network payments.

Will offices billing the CMS Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) instead of Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) see the same increases?

The OPPS system is intended to cover the labor costs of administering these tests by in-facility staff, and do not pay for the test itself. OPPS-equivalents to the PFS codes are also proposed for 2021, which do not have substantial differences in payments between 1-2 day and the EWH services.

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