

• *1995 work RVUs.* The work RVUs that appeared in the December 1994 rule are shown for each reviewed code.

• *Requested work RVUs.* This column identifies the work RVUs requested by commenters. We received more than one comment on some codes, and, in a few of these cases, the commenters requested different RVUs. The table lists the highest requested RVUs. For some codes, we received recommendations for an increase or decrease but no specific RVU recommendations.

• *1996 work RVUs.* This column contains the final RVUs for physician work.

• *Basis for decision.* This column indicates whether:

—The recommendations of the refinement panel were the basis upon which we determined that the interim work RVUs published in the December 1994 final rule should be retained (indicator 1);

—A new value emerged from our analysis of the refinement panel ratings (indicator 2); or

—A new or retained value emerged from some other source (indicator 3). Codes with an indicator of 3 are discussed following Table 1, in section VI.B.1.c.

—New or retained values emerged through a combination of the panel ratings and code descriptor interpretation (indicator 4). Codes with an indicator of 4 are discussed following Table 1, in section VI.B.1.b.

TABLE 1.—WORK RVU REFINEMENTS OF INTERIM AND RELATED RVUS

CPT*	Mod	Description	1995 work RVU	Re-requested work RVU	1996 work RVU	Basis for decision
11977		Removal/reinsert contra cap	2.52	3.30	3.30	3
19367		Breast reconstruction	24.73	26.50	24.73	3
20955		Microvascular fibula graft	37.58	43.00	37.58	3
25337		Reconstruct ulna/radioulna	9.10	9.50	9.50	3
25830		Fusion radioulnar jnt/ulna	9.10	9.50	9.50	3
26580		Repair hand deformity	15.81	17.71	17.71	3
29445		Apply rigid leg cast	1.78	0.57	1.78	3
31276		Sinus surgical endoscopy	7.42	8.85	8.85	3
37209		Exchange arterial catheter	1.48	3.66	2.27	2
41822		Excision of gum lesion	2.26	4.20	2.26	1
41823		Excision of gum lesion	3.15	4.60	3.15	1
41828		Excision of gum lesion	1.26	4.44	3.04	2
41830		Removal of gum tissue	1.12	5.00	3.30	2
43842		Gastroplasty for obesity	13.76	17.47	13.76	3
43843		Gastroplasty for obesity	13.76	17.47	13.76	3
43846		Gastric bypass for obesity	17.84	20.87	17.84	3
43847		Gastric bypass for obesity	19.87	23.24	19.87	3
43848		Revision gastroplasty	22.10	24.75	22.10	3
52647		Laser surgery of prostate	7.42	11.51	9.84	2
52648		Laser surgery of prostate	8.65	11.51	10.69	2
59855		Abortion	4.75	5.80	5.80	3
64820		Remove sympathetic nerves	9.10	10.00	10.00	3
76093	26	Magnetic image, breast	1.63	1.94	1.63	1
76094	26	Magnetic image, both breasts	1.63	1.94	1.63	1
76936	26	Echo guide for artery repair	1.31	2.64	1.99	2
90849		Special family therapy	0.59	0.78	0.59	3
90918		ESRD related services, month	9.77	13.27	11.18	4
90919		ESRD related services, month	7.13	9.13	8.54	4
90920		ESRD related services, month	5.86	6.64	7.27	4
90921		ESRD related services, month	3.06	5.06	4.47	4
92587	26	Evoked auditory test	0.13	1.40	0.13	3
92588	26	Evoked auditory test	0.36	1.70	0.36	3
93350	26	Echo exam of heart	0.78	Increase	0.78	3
93990	26	Doppler flow testing	0.25	1.18	0.25	1
95812	26	Electroencephalogram (EEG)	1.08	1.75	1.08	4
95813	26	Electroencephalogram (EEG)	1.73	2.50	1.73	4
96913		Photochemotherapy, UV-A or B	0.00	Increase	0.00	3
97124		Massage therapy	0.35	Decrease	0.35	3
97265		Joint mobilization	0.45	Decrease	0.45	3
99354		Prolonged service, office	1.51	2.33	1.51	3
99355		Prolonged service, office	1.51	1.20	1.51	3
99356		Prolonged service, inpatient	1.44	3.00	1.44	3
99357		Prolonged service, inpatient	1.44	1.50	1.44	3
99375		Care plan oversight/30-60	1.06	2.65	1.73	2

b. Discussion of codes reviewed by the panel for which clarification of the description of the service is required.

For several of the codes reviewed by the refinement panel, it was necessary to reach agreement on the meaning of

the codes before individual ratings of work could be provided. In the following paragraphs, we summarize the