PHILIPS

H.R. 2029
Reference Guide

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Frequently Asked Questions:

1. What is H.R. 2029?
The Consolidated Appropriations Act (H.R. 2029) was passed into law in December 2015 and includes a provision designed to encourage healthcare providers to adopt digital imaging as an industry standard over analog and computed technologies. Specifically, through the legislation, Medicare will apply a reduction to the reimbursement received for all X-ray studies conducted on analog or computed X-ray systems.

2. Why are the reimbursement cuts being imposed?
Starting in 2017, these cuts are being imposed to incent imaging providers to adopt digital X-ray technology in order to promote the use of the more advanced technology. Digital Radiography (DR) has enabled faster image acquisition of X-ray images, reduces need for procedure recaptures, and it provides the capability to easily transfer these images into PACS for fast access for interpretation and for archival.

3. How will the legislation impact providers?
The CMS reimbursement cuts will apply to the Technical Component of the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) and APC payment in the Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (HOPPS). Additionally, these cuts impact Medicare payment only.

4. Does this penalty apply to the professional component of the service?
No, these reductions only impact the technical component of a procedure.

5. When will the reimbursement cuts start?
The law will reduce Analog X-ray payments by 20% starting January, 2017 continue indefinitely. The law will reduce computed radiography by 7% starting January, 2018 and increase to 10% in January 2023.

6. Will the Reimbursement Cuts impact inpatient Radiology?
No, these reductions will only apply to procedures performed in the hospital outpatient departments and non-hospital settings such as an imaging center or physician's office.

7. How will this impact a packaged payment where X-ray is included?
These reductions will apply to those X-ray procedures that are part of the imaging portion of the packaged service.

This information is valid as of March 22, 2016

How Philips can help you meet these new requirements

Philips ProGrade – DR technology today with minimal investment

As a direct digital upgrade solution for BuckyDiagnost, ProGrade provides a truly integrated digital workflow that will transform your exam room without a geometry replacement. Radiologists will appreciate powerful premium imaging features like CsI detector technology and UNIQUE image processing, allowing high quality care for patients. Meanwhile, workflow is much enhanced by the non-opening Bucky tray and automatic Dose Area Product (DAP) data capture, as well as an Eleva user interface and integration with Philips CR. Compared to DR geometry replacements, ProGrade simplifies your team's learning curve thanks to familiar Philips geometry and Eleva's user-friendly interface and easy workflow. You'll be up to speed in next to no time.

- Continue using Bucky systems with a cost-effective digital upgrade, and unify a department with the Eleva concept and SkyPlate detector sharing.
- Powerful digital imaging tools and familiar Bucky geometry allow you to work fast and effectively compared to analog and CR.
- High quality digital imaging provides enhanced diagnoses for quality patient care.
- Future-proof your investment. ProGrade allows SkyPlate to be compatible with Philips digital radiography systems, for long-term confidence. So when the time finally comes to replace your Bucky system, you can continue to use – and get value from – your investment in SkyPlate.
- Can be added to your existing Philips service contract.
- Flexible financing options are available and can help facilitate payments to work with your capital and/or operating budget constraints.

Upgrade to a New Philips DR room – Trade out your old room for something completely new

Rather than a half-step to digital through ProGrade, you also have the option of completely replacing your aging analog room with a new Philips DigitalDiagnost with our latest technology. All our scalable DR rooms can match your clinical requirements to your investment strategy.

- Philips SkyPlates allow you to enhance your economic value when used in trays instead of a fixed detector. By sharing the large and the small SkyPlates between compatible Philips DR systems you can push cost efficiency one step further.
- Thanks to state-of-the-art flat panel detectors and renowned UNIQUE digital image processing, DigitalDiagnost supports fast and confident decision making and personalized processes.
- The intuitive Eleva interface and ergonomic components facilitate smooth workflow so you can focus on the patients. Motorized vertical stands and flexible tables allow for easy positioning around patients in your DR room.
- In combination with diversified automated ceiling suspension movements, you can swiftly cover the full exposure range. Exams are easy to do, providing high quality images quickly and with excellent X-ray dose efficiency.
- Flexible financing options are available to help you manage this expenditure and can facilitate payments to work with either your capital and/or operating budget constraints.

Ask your local account manager how Philips radiology solutions can be tailor-made to meet and exceed your X-ray requirements. Philips is prepared to work with you to help mitigate any issues this initiative may cause to your business in terms of efficiency and financial impact by helping your facility upgrade to a digital platform. Please contact your local Philips account representative to learn more about this initiative and how Philips can help you become compliant. If you have immediate questions or concerns about this matter, please call us at **1.888.647.4285** and we will put you in touch with your local Philips account team.

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