

## **AAPM Supports Revaluation of Weekly Medical Physics Consultation Code 77336**

AAPM recently submitted comments to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding the 2012 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS), which includes payment policy for physicians and freestanding cancer centers. Specifically, AAPM supports review and revaluation of the Continuing Medical Physics Consultation code 77336, which was last reviewed for the 2003 MPFS. AAPM stated that CPT code 77336 is misvalued because changes in the technique for rendering continuing medical physics consultations have resulted in changes to the knowledge required, time, and effort expended, and complexity of technology associated with the tasks performed by the medical physicist and other staff. AAPM asserted that the direct practice expense inputs no longer accurately reflect the resources used to deliver this service and may be undervalued. AAPM advised CMS that the Continuing Medical Physics Consultation code now takes more time due to increased complexity of treatments and patient setups, increased use of image guided radiation therapy (IGRT) and associated workload for review of images, and the increased emphasis on safety, which has changed the level of oversight of patients under treatment. For more information on other AAPM recommendations included in the CMS comment letter, go to:

[http://www.aapm.org/government\\_affairs/CMS/default.asp](http://www.aapm.org/government_affairs/CMS/default.asp)