

## Medicare: New Regulations Define “Direct” Supervision Of Nursing Practitioners.

On July 20, 2009 the US Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) published an announcement in the Federal Register listing certain regulatory changes that will affect standards for Medicare reimbursement in 2010.

### **Definition of “Direct” Supervision Of Nursing Practitioners by Physician**

CMS’s announcement, among other things, clarifies the meaning of the word “direct” in the phrase “direct supervision” as it applies to physician supervision of nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists and certified nurse midwives.

---

***For services provided in the hospital, direct supervision means that the physician must be present in the hospital or on campus and immediately available to furnish assistance and direction throughout the performance of the procedure.***

***For services furnished in an off-campus outpatient department, direct supervision means the physician must be present in the off-campus department and available to furnish assistance and direction throughout the performance of the procedure.***

***In or out of the hospital, the physician need not be present in the room when the procedure is performed.***

FEDERAL REGISTER July 20, 2009  
Pages 35424 - 35425