README file for Proposed 2010 Fully Implemented ASC Relative Payment Weight File

In response to commenters' requests, we have provided this proposed CY 2010 fully implemented ASC relative payment weight file to illustrate the CY 2010 ASC relative payment weights as they would appear if there were no transition period. These proposed payment weights do not represent what the final payment weights would be once the 4-year transition is complete.   This file contains the following elements, which are described in the table below: HCPCS code, HCPCS code short descriptor, proposed CY 2010 ASC payment indicator, proposed CY 2010 ASC fully implemented relative payment weight, and the proposed CY 2010 ASC transitional relative payment weight.

We do not present payment weights for services with the following separately paid ASC payment indicators: D5, F4, H2, K2, K7, L1, and L6. These are items or services which are contractor priced, deleted, or have a proposed predetermined payment amount for CY 2010. Please refer to Addendum DD1 of the CY 2010 OPPS/ASC Proposed Rule for the complete list of ASC payment indicators and their definitions.

There are five columns in the file:

Column heading	Explanation
HCPCS code	The Health Care Procedural Coding System (HCPCS) code that describes a service for which the code was valid at any time during 2009.
Short Descriptor	The HCPCS short descriptor for the code in column 1; if the code is a Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code, the short descriptor is the AMA CPT short descriptor
CY 2010 ASC Payment Indicator	The proposed payment indicator that is assigned to the HCPCS code for use under the ASC payment system.
CY 2010 Fully Implemented ASC Relative Payment Weight (Not an Official Payment Weight)	The proposed implemented relative payment weight for the code in column 1 that would be in effect for CY 2010, if there were no transition period. We present this weight for informational purposes only.
CY 2010 Third Year Transition Payment Weight	The proposed transitional relative payment weight for the code in column 1 that is in effect for CY 2010.