



News Flash - It's seasonal flu time again! If you have Medicare patients who haven't yet received their flu shot, you can help them reduce their risk of contracting the seasonal flu and potential complications by recommending an annual influenza and a one-time pneumococcal vaccination. Medicare provides coverage for flu and pneumococcal vaccines and their administration. – And don't forget to immunize yourself and your staff. Protect yourself, your patients, and your family and friends. Get Your Flu Shot – Not the Flu! Remember - Influenza vaccination is a covered Part B benefit but the influenza vaccine is NOT a Part D covered drug. Health care professionals and their staff can learn more about Medicare's coverage of adult immunizations and related provider education resources, by reviewing Special Edition *MLN Matters* article SE0748 at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0748.pdf> on the CMS website.

MLN Matters Number: MM5829

Related Change Request (CR) #: 5829

Related CR Release Date: December 14, 2007

Effective Date: January 1, 2008

Related CR Transmittal #: R1391CP

Implementation Date: January 7, 2008

Annual Update of Healthcare Common Procedure Codes System (HCPCS) Codes Used for Home Health Consolidated Billing Enforcement

Provider Types Affected

Physicians, suppliers, and providers who bill Medicare contractors (Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs), carriers, regional home health intermediaries (RHHIs), and DME Medicare Administrative Contractors (DME MACs) and Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs)) for medical supply or therapy services.

What Providers Need to Know

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) periodically updates the lists of Healthcare Common Procedure Codes System (HCPCS) codes subject to the consolidated billing provision of the Home Health Prospective Payment System (HH PPS). This article provides the annual HH consolidated billing update effective January 1, 2008. Affected providers may note the changes in the table

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listed within this article or consult the instruction issued to the Medicare contractors as listed in the *Additional information* section of this article.

Background

Section 1842(b)(6) of the Social Security Act (SSA) requires that payment for home health services provided under a home health plan of care be made to the home health agency (HHA.) As a result, billing for all such items and services is to be done by a single HHA overseeing that plan. This HHA is known as the primary agency for HH PPS for billing purposes. Services appearing on this list that are submitted on claims to Medicare contractors will not be paid separately on dates when a beneficiary for whom such a service is being billed is in a home health episode (i.e., under a home health plan of care administered by an HHA).

Exceptions include the following:

- Therapies performed by physicians;
- Supplies incidental to physician services; and
- Supplies used in institutional settings.

Medicare has issued a Recurring Update Notification, which provides the annual HH consolidated billing updates for non-routine supplies and therapies effective January 1, 2008. These lists are updated annually, effective each January 1, to reflect the annual changes to the HCPCS code set. The lists may also be updated as frequently as quarterly if required by the creation of temporary HCPCS codes during the year.

CR5829 provides the annual HH consolidated billing update effective January 1, 2008. The following tables describe the HCPCS codes and the specific changes to each that this notification is implementing for claims with dates of service on or after January 1, 2008.

Table 1: Non Routine Supplies

| Code | Description | Action |
|-------|---|----------|
| A5083 | CONTINENT DEVICE, STOMA ABSORPTIVE COVER FOR CONTINENT STOMA | Add |
| A5105 | URINARY SUSPENSORY WITH LEG BAG WITH OR WITHOUT TUBE, EACH | Redefine |
| A6200 | COMPOSITE DRESSING, PAD SIZE 16 SQ. IN. OR LESS, WITHOUT ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING | Delete |
| A6201 | COMPOSITE DRESSING, PAD SIZE MORE | Delete |

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| | | |
|-------|--|--------|
| | THAN 16 SQ. IN. BUT LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 48 SQ. IN., WITHOUT ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING | |
| A6202 | COMPOSITE DRESSING, PAD SIZE MORE THAN 48 SQ. IN., WITHOUT ADHESIVE BORDER, EACH DRESSING | Delete |
| A6413 | ADHESIVE BANDAGE, FIRST-AID TYPE, ANY SIZE, EACH | Add |

Table 2: Therapies

| Code | Description | Action | Replacement Code or Code being Replaced |
|-------|---|--------|---|
| 96125 | STANDARDIZED COGNITIVE PERFORMANCE TESTING PER HOUR | Add | 96125 |

Additional Information

For details regarding this CR, please see the official instruction issued to your Medicare FI, carrier, A/B MAC, RHHI, or DME MAC. This may be viewed at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1391CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have questions, please contact your Medicare FI, carrier, A/B MAC, RHHI, or DME MAC at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website.

A complete historical listing of codes subject to HH consolidated billing can be found at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/HomeHealthPPS/03_coding&billing.asp on the CMS website.

To review the Medicare manual instructions discussed in this article see the *Medicare Claims Processing Manual*, Chapter 10, Section 20.1 at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/downloads/clm104c10.pdf> on the CMS website.

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