

Related Change Request (CR) #: 3013

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Related CR Release Date: December 19, 2003

Related CR Transmittal #: R310TN

Effective Date: January 1, 2004

Implementation Date: January 5, 2004

MMA-Emergency Correction Needed Due to the Freeze of the DMEPOS and Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedules

Provider Types Affected

All providers who bill Medicare carriers and fiscal intermediaries for services paid under the clinical lab fee schedule or the DMEPOS fee schedule.

Provider Action Needed

The Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA) passed by Congress and signed into law on December 8, 2003 by the President, changes the fee update for the clinical laboratories and DMEPOS fee schedules to zero (0) percent. Please be aware of this change and ensure that your billing processes reflect this change, as appropriate.

Background

The Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act (MMA) of 2003, in Section 628, specifies that the fee update for clinical laboratory services for FY 2004 through 2008 is zero (0) percent.

This Act also specifies in Section 302(c) that the fee schedule update factors for 2004 for Durable Medical Equipment (DME) (other than items classified as class III devices by the Food and Drug Administration), including prosthetic devices, prosthetics, orthotics and surgical dressings, are equal to zero (0) percent.

In addition, the 2004 payment limits for therapeutic shoes will be frozen at the 2003 amounts.

Implementation

New clinical laboratory and DMEPOS fee schedules were provided to your carrier and/or fiscal intermediary in time to implement this change for claims for services rendered on and after January 1, 2004.

Related Instructions

Should you have any questions regarding these changes, contact your carrier or fiscal intermediary at their toll-free provider number. If you do not have that number, you may find it on the Medicare web site at:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/tollnums.asp>

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In addition, should you wish to view the actual program instruction related to this article, please visit:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/transmittals/comm_date_dsc.asp.

Look for CR number 3013 and click on the file for that CR.

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