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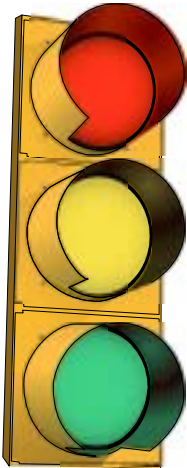
Implementation Date: April 5, 2004

Emergency Correction to Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Codes for Low-Osmolar Contrast Material

Providers Affected

All Medicare hospitals and physicians.

Provider Action Needed



STOP – Impact to You

HCPCS code A9525 (for low- or iso-osmolar contrast material) will be invalid after April 1, 2004. If you use the code for services you provided on or after this date, your claims for the use of low-osmolar contrast material may not be processed.

CAUTION – What You Need to Know

Previously deleted HCPCS codes A4644 through A4646 (for low-osmolar contrast material) have been reinstated. Concurrently, the newly added code A9525 (for low- or iso-osmolar contrast material) will become invalid on April 1, 2004.

GO – What You Need to Do

Make sure that your billing staff knows that HCPCS code A9525 will become invalid on April 1, 2004. You should continue to use codes A4644 through A4646 for your claims for the use of low- and iso-osmolar contrast material.

Background

This One-Time Notification provides specific instructions regarding HCPCS codes for low-osmolar contrast material.

HCPCS codes A4644 thru A4646 have been used to bill for low-osmolar contrast material since 1994. The HCPCS Alpha-Numeric Editorial Panel decided to add a new single code A9525 for low- or iso-osmolar contrast material and delete codes A4644 thru A4646 effective January 1, 2004.

Since then, CMS has decided that this change in HCPCS codes may result in incorrect coding of low-osmolar contrast material. Therefore, CMS wants you to continue to use (or revert back to using) codes

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A4644 thru A4646, for both low- and iso-osmolar contrast material, rather than the new code A9525. Further, on April 1, 2004, code A9525 will become invalid, so that any claims you submit using this code for services on or after that date may not be processed.

Additional Information

For more information concerning this issue, please visit:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/pm_trans/R45OTN.pdf

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