
Program Memorandum Intermediaries/Carriers

Department of Health &
Human Services (DHHS)
Centers for Medicare &
Medicaid Services (CMS)

Transmittal AB-02-016

Date: FEBRUARY 7, 2002

CHANGE REQUEST 2014

SUBJECT: Effective Date for Q3017

Scope

This Program Memorandum (PM) specifies the effective date for code Q3017.

Background

The transition to an ambulance fee schedule was anticipated for January 1, 2002. In anticipation of the January date, we included in our instruction, AB PM-01-0165, the new HCPCS code Q3017 that would have an effective date of January 1, 2002. The new HCPCS file has that code with the effective date of January 1, 2002. However, because the fee schedule final regulation has not been published, implementation of the fee schedule is delayed until at least April 1, 2002. With the start of the transition to the ambulance fee schedule, the effective date for Q3017 in the Medicare program is April 1, 2002, the implementation of the fee schedule.

Policy

Claims with dates of service January 1, 2002 and later, and the Q3017 HCPCS codes must be denied. The code Q3017 will not be an active Medicare code until April 1, 2002.

Implementation

Contractors should deny claims with HCPCS code Q3017 and a date of service after January 1, 2002, and continue to deny the code until further notice.

Contractors should use message code B18 for providers, "Claim/service denied because this procedure code/modifier was invalid on the date of service or claim submission."

Contractors should use message code 16.13 for beneficiaries, "The code(s) your provider used is/are not valid for the date of service billed."

Provider Education

1. Inform providers of this policy in the next scheduled newsletter.
2. Update your Web site upon receipt of this PM to include this policy.

The *effective date* for this PM is January 1, 2002.

The *implementation date* for this PM is February 7, 2002.

These instructions should be implemented within your current operating budget.

This PM may be discarded after January 1, 2003.

If you have any questions concerning claims processing, contact Dolores Crujeiras at 410-786-7169 dcrujeiras@cms.hhs.gov. If you have questions concerning bill processing, call Nicole Atkins at 410-786-8278 or natkins@cms.hhs.gov.

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