

Related Change Request (CR) #: 3187

Medlearn Matters Number: MM3187

Related CR Release Date: April 23, 2004

Related CR Transmittal #: 74

Effective Date: January 1, 2004

Implementation Date: May 24, 2004

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

Provider Types Affected

All Medicare hospitals and physicians.

Provider Action Needed

Affected providers should note that this instruction provides additional information regarding coding under the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) for low-osmolar contrast material. It corrects the effective date for the reinstatement of selected HCPCS codes and the change in status of HCPCS code A9525.

Background

On January 23, 2004, Change Request 3053 - Emergency Correction to Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Codes for Low-Osmolar Contrast Material was issued, and it provided the following instructions:

- Reinstatement of Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes A4644 through A4646; and
- Change in status of HCPCS code A9525 to “not payable by Medicare.”

The effective date for these changes was given as April 1, 2004.

This April 1, 2004 date was incorrect. These changes are to be made retroactive to January 1, 2004.

Thus, codes A4644 through A4646 are reinstated as of January 1, 2004 and code A9525 is invalid for dates of service on or after January 1, 2004.

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On February 20, 2004 Change Request 3128 was issued. It updated the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Database as follows:

- **Status indicator E** was assigned to codes A4644 through A4646; and
- **Status indicator I** was assigned to code A9525.

The effective date for these changes was given as January 1, 2004.

This is correct.

Codes A4644 thru A4646 have been reinstated in the HCPCS.

Implementation

The implementation date for this instruction is May 24, 2004.

Additional Information

The official instruction issued to your carrier regarding this change may be found by going to:

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

From that web page, look for CR3185 in the CR NUM column on the right and click on the file for that CR.

If you have any questions, please contact your carrier/intermediary at their toll-free number, which may be found at:

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

Change Request 3053 - Emergency Correction to Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System(HCPCS) Codes for Low-Osmolar Contrast Material, Transmittal 45, dated January 23, 2004, can be found at the following Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Medlearn Matters Website:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/matters/mmarticles/2004/MM3053.pdf>

Also, Change Request 3128 - 1st Update to the 2004 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Database Transmittal 105, dated February 20, 2004, can be found at the following CMS Website:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/pm_trans/R105CP.pdf.

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