

Related Change Request (CR) #: 3430

Medlearn Matters Number: MM3430

Related CR Release Date: September 10, 2004

Related CR Transmittal #: 297

Effective Date: January 1, 2005

Implementation Date: January 3, 2005

MMA - Reasonable Charge Update for 2005 for Splints, Casts, Dialysis Supplies, Dialysis Equipment, Therapeutic Shoes, and Certain Intraocular Lenses

Provider Types Affected

Physicians, providers, and suppliers.

Provider Action Needed

This instruction provides details regarding the calculation of reasonable charges for the payment of claims for splints, casts, dialysis supplies, dialysis equipment, and intraocular lenses furnished in calendar year 2005.

Background

Payment on a reasonable charge basis is required for splints, casts, dialysis supplies, dialysis equipment, and intraocular lenses by regulations contained in 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 405.501.

This instruction provides details regarding the calculation of reasonable charges for payment of claims for **splints, casts, dialysis supplies, dialysis equipment, and intraocular lenses** furnished in calendar year 2005.

- For **therapeutic shoe HCPCS codes A5500, A5501, A5503-A5507, K0628, and K0629** the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA, Section 627) changes the payment methodology from reasonable charge to the prosthetic and orthotic fee schedule. Further information on the pricing update for therapeutic shoes will be provided in a separate article for the 2005 update of the Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) Fee Schedule.

For splints and casts the following applies:

- The 2005 gap-filled amounts will be based on the 2004 amounts increased by 3.3 percent, the percentage change in the consumer price index for all urban consumers for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2003.
- For **splints and casts** furnished by hospital outpatient departments, payment is built into the Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) payment amounts.

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- For **splint or cast materials**, payment is only made on a reasonable charge basis for splint or cast materials used by physicians or other practitioners to reduce a fracture or dislocation, and this payment is in addition to the payment made under the physician fee schedule for the procedure for applying the splint or cast.
- For **intraocular lenses (HCPCS codes of V2630, V2631, and V2632)**, payment is only made on a reasonable charge basis for lenses implanted at a physician's office.

Implementation

The implementation date for this instruction is January 3, 2005.

Additional Information

For complete details, please see the official instruction issued to your carrier or DMERC regarding this change at:

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

From that Web page, look for CR3430 in the CR NUM column on the right, and click on the file for that CR. That CR has a detailed list of HCPCS codes for splints and casts with associated gap-filled payment amounts that your carrier will use in making payment in 2005 based on the lower of the actual charge or the gap-filled payment amount.

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

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

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