
PROGRAM MEMORANDUM INTERMEDIARIES/CARRIERS

Department of Health
and Human Services

Health Care Financing
Administration

Transmittal No. AB-00-81

Date: AUGUST 30, 2000

CHANGE REQUEST 1164

This Program Memorandum re-issues Program Memorandum AB-00-21, Change Request 1164 dated April 2000. The only change is the discard date; all other material remains the same.

SUBJECT: Self-Administered Injectable Drugs and Biologicals

This Program Memorandum (PM) suspends, until further notice, the memorandum dated August 13, 1997, to the regional offices of the Health Care Financing Administration concerning the coverage of self-administered injectable drugs and biologicals covered by the Medicare program. This PM implements §219 of the Department of Health and Human Services Appropriations Act, 2000, Pub. L. No. 106-113 (1999) which states:

None of the funds made available under this title may be used to carry out the transmittal of August 13, 1997 (relating to self-administered drugs) of the Deputy Director of the Division of Acute Care of the Health Care Financing Administration to regional offices of such Administration or to promulgate any regulation or other transmittal or policy directive that has the effect of imposing (or clarifying the imposition of) a restriction on the coverage of injectable drugs under section 1861(s)(2) of the Social Security Act beyond the restrictions applied before the date of such transmittal.

Each carrier and intermediary must establish its policy concerning coverage of injectable drugs and biologicals based on its interpretation of the guidance that pre-existed August 13, 1997; for example, §2049 of the Medicare Carriers Manual and §3112 of the Medicare Intermediary Manual. Carriers and intermediaries must establish their policies individually, and may not establish model policies as a group.

The *effective date* for this PM is March 17, 2000.

The *implementation date* for this PM is March 17, 2000.

These instructions should be implemented within your current operating budget.

This PM may be discarded after December 31, 2001.

If you have any questions, contact Robert Niemann at (410) 786-4569.