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# CMS Manual System

## Pub. 100-20 One-Time Notification

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

Transmittal 45

Date: JANUARY 23, 2004

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CHANGE REQUEST 3053

**I. SUMMARY OF CHANGES:** This One-Time Notification provides instructions for making Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System changes for low osmolar contrast material.

**NEW/REVISED MATERIAL - EFFECTIVE DATE:** April 1, 2004

**\*IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** April 5, 2004

**II. CHANGES IN MANUAL INSTRUCTIONS:** N/A  
(R = REVISED, N = NEW, D = DELETED)

R/N/D	CHAPTER/SECTION/SUBSECTION/TITLE

**\*III. FUNDING:**

These instructions shall be implemented within your current operating budget.

**IV. ATTACHMENTS:**

	Business Requirements
	Manual Instruction
	Confidential Requirements
X	One-Time Notification
	Recurring Update Notification

**\*Medicare contractors only**

# Attachment - One-Time Notification

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

## **I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **A. Background:**

This One-Time Notification provides specific instructions regarding coding under the HCPCS for low osmolar contrast material. Codes A4644 thru A4646 in the HCPCS 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. In accordance with §20.4 of Chapter 23 of the Medicare Claims Processing Manual (Pub 100-4), a three calendar month grace period applies to deleted codes. Therefore, providers may continue to submit claims using codes A4644 thru A4646 until the grace period termination date of March 31, 2004.

### **B. Policy:**

It has been decided that the HCPCS coding change described in section A above may result in incorrect coding of low osmolar contrast material and that providers should continue to use codes A4644 thru A4646 rather than new code A9525. Therefore, effective April 1, 2004, contractors should continue to process claims for low osmolar contrast material coded under A4644 thru A4646. Also, effective April 1, 2004, for claims received on or after April 1, 2004, code A9525 should be made invalid for Medicare claims processing purposes (coverage/status indicator = I). Iso-osmolar products should continue to be coded using the appropriate low osmolar code A6444, A4645, or A4646.

### **C. Provider Education:**

Intermediaries and carriers shall inform affected providers by posting either a summary or relevant portions of this document on their Web site within two weeks. Also, intermediaries and carriers shall publish this same information in their next regularly scheduled bulletin. If they have a listserv that targets affected providers, they shall use it to notify subscribers that information about HCPCS coding changes for low osmolar contrast material is available on their Web site.

## **II. BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS**

*"Shall" denotes a mandatory requirement*

*"Should" denotes an optional requirement*

<b>Requirement #</b>	<b>Requirements</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
3053.1	Contractors shall retain codes A4644 thru A4646 in their systems for processing claims for low osmolar contrast material.	Carriers, CWF, FIs
3053.2	Code A9525 is invalid for submission on or after April 1, 2004.	Carriers, CWF, FIs

### **III. SUPPORTING INFORMATION & POSSIBLE DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS**

#### **A. Other Instructions: N/A**

<b>X-Ref Requirement #</b>	<b>Instructions</b>

#### **B. Design Considerations: N/A**

<b>X-Ref Requirement #</b>	<b>Recommendation for Medicare System Requirements</b>

#### **C. Interfaces: N/A**

#### **D. Contractor Financial Reporting /Workload Impact: N/A**

#### **E. Dependencies: N/A**

#### **F. Testing Considerations: N/A**

### **IV. SCHEDULE, CONTACTS, AND FUNDING**

<b>Effective Date: April 1, 2004</b> <b>Implementation Date: April 5, 2004</b> <b>Pre-Implementation Contact(s): Joel Kaiser at <a href="mailto:jkaiser@cms.hhs.gov">jkaiser@cms.hhs.gov</a></b> <b>Post-Implementation Contact(s): Appropriate Regional Office</b>	<b>These instructions shall be implemented within your current operating budget.</b>
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