
Program Memorandum Intermediaries/Carriers

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

Transmittal AB-02-185

Date: DECEMBER 31, 2002

CHANGE REQUEST 2536

SUBJECT: Deletion of Q codes and Reactivation of CPT codes for Hepatitis B Vaccine

Change request (CR) 2392 issued November 1, 2002, (Transmittal Number 1866, Intermediary Manual, Transmittal Number 792 Hospital Manual, and Transmittal Number 1778 Carriers Manual) provided information concerning new codes to be used in carrier and fiscal intermediary (FI) billing for hepatitis B vaccine effective January 1, 2003. The decision to make these changes has been reconsidered. This Program Memorandum (PM) is to inform you that Q codes Q3021, Q3022, and Q3023 will not be established as new codes for Medicare purposes at this time. Therefore, we are reactivating CPT codes 90740, 90743, 90744, 90746, and 90747 effective January 1, 2003.

Carriers and FIs should disregard the information in CR 2392 concerning the above codes. The information concerning codes 90723 and 90748 is still correct.

Claims Processing Information for Intermediaries

Although the effective date of this PM is January 1, 2003, it will not be implemented any earlier than April 1, 2003, since the January Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) Outpatient Code Editor (OCE) will not recognize the CPT codes as valid. The necessary changes will be made to the April OPPS OCE to recognize the CPT codes as valid. In the interim the following actions are needed:

- Effective January 13, 2003, if a claim with a date of service January 1, 2003 through March 31, 2003, is received containing CPT codes 90740, 90743, 90744, 90746 or 90747, it will be returned to the provider.
- Advise your providers, that claims for hepatitis B vaccine containing CPT codes listed above, with dates of service January 1, 2003 through March 31, 2003, should be held in their system and submitted to you for payment in April.
- In situations where the provider furnishes additional services that would be reported on the same claim as the vaccine CPT codes, the provider may wish to remove the charge for the vaccine in order to receive payment for the remaining services and then submit an adjustment bill in April to receive payment for the vaccine CPT codes.
- Advise your providers not to submit a claim for HCPCS codes Q3021, Q3022, Q3023. In the event you receive a claim with one of the Q codes, return the claim to the provider.

Section 3660.7 of the Intermediary Manual, and Section 435 of the Hospital Manual will be updated to reflect the current hepatitis B vaccine CPT codes and should be released shortly.

Claims Processing Information for Carriers and Carrier Standard Systems

Carriers and carrier standard systems must make any necessary changes to delete codes Q3021, Q3022, and Q3023 from their systems. Codes 90740, 90743, 90744, 90746, and 90747 must be allowed to continue as active, payable codes.

Section 4480.2 of the Carriers Manual will be updated to reflect the current hepatitis B vaccine CPT codes and should be released shortly.

Claims Processing Information for the Common Working File (CWF)

Effective January 1, 2003, CWF must delete codes Q3021, Q3022, and Q3023. In the CWF system, codes 90740, 90743, 90744, 90746, and 90747 must be reinstated as active, payable codes and the termination dates must be removed.

Provider Education

Carriers and intermediaries must notify providers, physicians, and non-physicians practitioners of these revisions in their regularly scheduled bulletins. They must also post the information on their websites and on any list serves they maintain within one week of the date of this transmittal.

The effective date for this PM is January 1, 2003.

The implementation date for this PM for carriers, carrier standard systems, and CWF is January 1, 2003. The implementation date for this PM for FIs is January 13, 2003, for returning the Q codes to the providers. The implementation date for FIs for processing the CPT codes is targeted for April 1, 2003.

These instructions should be implemented within your current operating budget.

This PM may be discarded after January 1, 2004.

If you have any questions, contact your regional office.