



Related MLN Matters Article #: MM5677

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Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Procedures

Key Words

MM5677, CR5677, R1339CP, Magnetic, Resonance, Imaging, MRI

Provider Types Affected

Independent diagnostic testing facilities and other providers submitting claims to Medicare carriers, Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs) and Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs) for MRI services provided to Medicare beneficiaries

Key Points

- The effective date of the instruction is January 1, 2007.
- The implementation date is October 22, 2007.
- **Prior to January 1, 2007**, separate payment was not made for contrast media used in certain MRI procedures because the contrast media was included in the payment for the procedure.
- **Effective January 1, 2007**, separate payment is made for the contrast media used in various imaging procedures.
- The cost of the contrast media is no longer included in the practice expense relative values units for the procedures.
- In addition to the Current Procedural Terminology code representing the imaging procedure, the appropriate Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System "Q" code (Q9945-Q9954; Q9958-Q9964) can be separately billed and paid for the contrast medium utilized in performing the service.
- Medicare FIs, carriers, and A/B MACs will not search their files for claims affected by this change to retroactively pay claims, but will adjust such claims that providers bring to their attention that were denied with dates of service on or after January 1, 2007.

Important Links

The related MLN Matters article can be found at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5677.pdf> on the CMS website.

The official instruction (CR5677) regarding this change may be viewed at

<http://www.cms.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1339CP.pdf> on the CMS website. The change to *Medicare Claims Processing Manual*, Chapter 13—Radiology Services and Other Diagnostic Procedures, is attached to the CR.

If providers have questions regarding this issue, they may contact their carrier, FI or A/B MAC at their toll-free number, which may be found at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website.