

MLN Matters Number: MM4206

Related Change Request (CR) #: 4206

Related CR Release Date: December 2, 2005

Effective Date: January 1, 2006

Related CR Transmittal #: 772

Implementation Date: April 3, 2006

Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Updates to the Fiscal Intermediary Shared System (FISS) Edit for Epoetin Alfa and Darbepoetin Alfa

Note: This article was updated on February 25, 2013, to reflect current Web addresses. All other information remains unchanged.

Provider Types Affected

Providers billing Medicare fiscal intermediaries (FIs) for services related to the administration of Epoetin Alfa and Darbepoetin Alfa to Medicare beneficiaries

Provider Action Needed



STOP – Impact to You

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 4206, which terminates the Q codes for Epoetin Alfa and Darbepoetin Alfa and replaces them with J codes.



CAUTION – What You Need to Know

Effective January 1, 2006: Q0136 Epoetin Alfa for Non-ESRD use is replaced with J0885; Q0137 Darbepoetin Alfa for Non-ESRD use is replaced with J0881; Q4054 Darbepoetin Alfa for ESRD use is replaced with J0882; and Q4055 Epoetin Alfa for ESRD use is replaced with J0886.



GO – What You Need to Do

See the *Background* section of this article for further details regarding these changes.

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Background

The annual Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) update effective January 1, 2006, changes the HCPCS for reporting and billing Epoetin Alfa and Darbepoetin Alfa. CR4206 terminates Q codes for Epoetin Alfa and Darbepoetin Alfa and replaces them with the J codes shown below, effective January 1, 2006:

- J0881 (INJECTION, DARBEPOETIN ALFA, 1 MICROGRAM (NON-ESRD USE)) replaces Q0137 (Darbepoetin Alfa for Non-ESRD use);
- J0882 (INJECTION, DARBEPOETIN ALFA, 1 MICROGRAM (FOR ESRD ON DIALYSIS)) replaces Q4054 (Darbepoetin Alfa for ESRD use);
- J0885 (INJECTION, EPOETIN ALFA, 1000 UNITS (FOR NON-ESRD USE)) replaces Q0136 (Epoetin Alfa for Non-ESRD use);
- J0886 (INJECTION, EPOETIN ALFA, 1000 UNITS (FOR ESRD ON DIALYSIS)) replaces Q4055 (Epoetin Alfa for ESRD use).

CR4108 (Transmittal 737, dated October 31, 2005, <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R737CP.pdf>) instructs providers to begin billing the new HCPCS effective January 1, 2006. The corresponding MLN Matters article (MM 4108) can be found at <http://www.cms.gov/outreach-and-education/medicare-learning-network-mln/mlnmattersarticles/downloads/MM4108.pdf>

All billing and payment instructions currently required for the Q codes in the *Medicare Claims Processing Manual* (Publication 100-4, Chapter 8, Section 60 (Separately Billable ESRD Items and Services), found at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/clm104c08.pdf> on the CMS website, will be applied to the new J codes upon implementation of this instruction.

According to CR4206, there are no other changes to the reporting and payment of Epoetin Alfa and Darbepoetin Alfa.

The implementation date for the instruction is April 3, 2006. Claims submitted on types of bills 12x, 13x, and 85x that contain J0882 and/or J0886 between the effective date and the April 3, 2006, implementation date will be paid on a reasonable cost basis.

However, the Medicare intermediaries will automatically adjust these claims after the implementation date and correct the payment and pay affected claims based on the appropriate fee.

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Additional Information

For complete details, please see the official instruction issued to your intermediary regarding this change. That instruction may be viewed at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R772CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your intermediary at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/provider-compliance-interactive-map/index.html> on the CMS website.

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