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Update of Radiopharmaceutical Imaging Agents Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Codes Applicable to Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Scan Services

Note: This article was updated on October 26, 2012, to reflect current Web addresses. All other information remains unchanged.

Provider Types Affected

Providers who submit claims to Medicare fiscal intermediaries (FIs) for PET scan services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

Background

This article is based on CR4270, which updates the *Medicare Claims Processing Manual* (Publication 100-04), Chapter 13, Section 60.3.2 (Tracer Codes Required for PET Scans) to include two new HCPCS codes for radiopharmaceutical diagnosis imaging agents (tracers) applicable to PET scan services.

Key Points

Effective for claims dates of service on or after January 1, 2006:

- A9555 replaces Q3000; and
- A9552 replaces C1775.

Effective for dates of service on or after January 1, 2006:

HCPCS codes Q3000 and C1775 are deleted.

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Additional Information

Tracer Codes Required for PET Scans for Institutional Providers Billing Their Fiscal Intermediary

The following are tracer codes applicable to CPT 78491 and 78492:

HCPCS Description

- *A9555 Supply of Radiopharmaceutical Diagnostic Imaging Agent, Rubidium RB-82, Diagnostic, Per study dose, Up To 60 Millicuries
- *Q3000 Supply of Radiopharmaceutical Diagnostic Imaging Agent, Rubidium RB-82 (Deleted effective 12/31/05)
- A9526 Supply of Radiopharmaceutical Diagnostic Imaging Agent, Ammonia N-13

***Note:** For claims with dates of service prior to January 1, 2006, providers should report Q3000 for supply of radiopharmaceutical diagnostic imaging agent, Rubidium RB-82. For claims with dates of service January 1, 2006 and later, providers report A9555 for radiopharmaceutical diagnostic imaging agent, Rubidium RB-82 in place of Q3000.

The following are tracer codes applicable to CPT 78459, 78608, 78609, 78811-78816:

HCPCS Description

- *A9552 (OPPS Only) Supply of Radiopharmaceutical Diagnostic Imaging Agent, Fluorodeoxyglucose F18, FDG, Diagnostic, Per study dose, Up to 45 Millicuries
- *C1775 Supply of Radiopharmaceutical Diagnostic Imaging Agent, Fluorodeoxyglucose F18 (Deleted effective 12/31/05)
- A4641 Supply of Radiopharmaceutical Diagnostic Imaging Agent, Not Otherwise Classified

***Note:** For claims with dates of service prior to January 1, 2006, providers report C1775 for supply of radiopharmaceutical diagnostic imaging agent, Fluorodeoxyglucose F18. For claims with dates of service January 1, 2006 and later, providers report A9552 for radiopharmaceutical diagnostic imaging agent, Fluorodeoxyglucose F18 in place of C1775.

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Relevant Links

CR4270 is the official instruction issued to your FI regarding this change. CR4270 may be found by going to <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R822CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

Please refer to your local FI if you have questions about this issue. To find their toll free phone number, go to <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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