



News Flash - The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is pleased to announce that a new self-service look-up tool is now available on the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) Portal at <http://www.qualitynet.org/pqri>, which allows an eligible professional at the Tax Identification Number (TIN) level to see if their 2007 PQRI Feedback Report is available. Once on the site, go to the "Verify TIN Report Portlet" which is located at the bottom left of the page. Enter the TIN and a message appears that indicates if a 2007 PQRI Feedback Report is or is not available. This self-service look-up tool does not allow the eligible professional to view their 2007 PQRI Feedback Report. The availability of the 2007 PQRI Feedback Report is helpful for the eligible professional to know because it enables them to decide if they need to register for an IACS account so that they can log into and view their 2007 PQRI Feedback Report. Additional information is in MLN Matters Special Edition articles SE0830-- (<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0830.pdf>) and SE0831-- (<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0831.pdf>) on the CMS website.

MLN Matters Number: MM6210

Related Change Request (CR) #: 6210

Related CR Release Date: October 3, 2008

Effective Date: January 1, 2009

Related CR Transmittal #: R3810TN

Implementation Date: January 5, 2009

Competitive Acquisition Program (CAP) for Part B Drugs and Biologicals Vendor Identification Number, Physician Election, and Iron Dextran Payment Update

Provider Types Affected

Physicians and providers submitting claims to Medicare contractors (carriers and/or Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs)) for Part B drugs and biologicals paid under the CAP.

Provider Action Needed

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 6210, which updates instructions regarding Vendor Identification Number (VIN) Q103 in CAP claims processing and other related processes. The CR also updates procedures pertaining to CAP physician election and addresses the procedure for paying CAP claims for Iron dextran products.

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This article was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This article may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents. CPT only copyright 2007 American Medical Association.

Background

CR6210 updates instructions about end-dating VIN Q103, which corresponds to the 2006-2008 Approved CAP Vendor. The current contract with the 2006-2008 Approved CAP Vendor will remain in effect through December 31, 2008. Additional information about the CAP program is available on the CMS website at: http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CompetitiveAcquisforBios/02_infophys.asp.

The Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes for two iron dextran products [J1751 (Injection, Iron Dextran 165, 50mg); and J1752 (Injection, Iron Dextran 267, 50mg)] were changed to Q4098 (Injection, Iron Dextran, 50mg) effective April 1, 2008. When submitting CAP claims for these codes, physicians should bill under the existing CAP "NOC" code Q4082. HCPCS code Q4098 will not be added into the CAP. Though these drugs are now under one code, the payment amounts for these products when they are furnished under the CAP remain unchanged. Iron dextran supplied under the CAP is paid at the Approved CAP Vendor contract's existing payment amounts for J1751 and J1752.

CR6210 also includes instructions related to the CAP physician election process. Unless a physician is submitting an election form within the first 90 days of joining Medicare, Medicare contractors are instructed to return election forms that are submitted outside of a regularly scheduled physician election period.

Additional Information

The official instruction, CR 6210, issued to your carrier and A/B MAC regarding this change may be viewed at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R381OTN.pdf> on the CMS website. If you have any questions, please contact your carrier 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.

News Flash - Flu Season Is Upon Us! Begin now to take advantage of each office visit as an opportunity to encourage your patients to get a flu shot. It's still their best defense against combating the flu this season. *(Medicare provides coverage of the flu vaccine without any out-of-pocket costs to the Medicare patient. No deductible or copayment/coinsurance applies.)* And don't forget, health care personnel can spread the highly contagious flu virus to patients. Protect yourself. Don't Get the Flu. Don't Give the Flu. Get Your Flu Shot. Remember - Influenza vaccine plus its administration are covered Part B benefits. Note that influenza vaccine is NOT a Part D covered drug. For information about Medicare's coverage of the influenza virus vaccine and its administration as well as related educational resources for health care professionals, please go to http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/Downloads/flu_products.pdf on the CMS website.

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