

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



News Flash – On January 30, 2013, CMS announced the single payment amounts for the Round 2 and national mail-order competitions of the Medicare Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics and Supplies (DMEPOS) Competitive Bidding Program. For additional information, see the [Press Release](#), a related [Fact Sheet](#), and other information at this [CMS website](#).

MLN Matters® Number: MM8043

Related Change Request (CR) #: CR 8043

Related CR Release Date: September 7, 2012

Effective Date: January 1, 2013

Related CR Transmittal #: R2527CP

Implementation Date: January 7, 2013

Annual Update of HCPCS Codes Used for Home Health Consolidated Billing Enforcement

Provider Types Affected

This MLN Matters® Article is for providers and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare contractors (Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs), Regional Home Health Intermediaries (RHHIs), carriers, Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) and A/B MACs) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

Provider Action Needed

This article announces that Change Request (CR) 8043 is a recurring update notification that provides the annual Home Health (HH) consolidated billing update, effective January 1, 2013. Make sure your billing staffs are aware of these changes.

Disclaimer

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 2011 American Medical Association.

Background

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) periodically updates the lists of Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes that are subject to the consolidated billing provision of the Home Health Prospective Payment System (HH PPS). With the exception of therapies performed by physicians, supplies incidental to physician services, and supplies used in institutional settings, services appearing on this list that are submitted on claims to Medicare contractors will not be paid separately on dates when a beneficiary for whom such a service is being billed is in a home health episode (i.e., under a home health plan of care administered by a home health agency). Medicare will only directly reimburse the primary home health agencies that have opened such episodes during the episode periods. Therapies performed by physicians, supplies incidental to physician services, and supplies used in institutional settings are not subject to HH consolidated billing.

The HH consolidated billing code lists are updated annually, to reflect the annual changes to the HCPCS code set itself. Additional updates may occur as frequently as quarterly in order to reflect the creation of temporary HCPCS codes (e.g., 'K' codes) throughout the calendar year. The new coding identified in each update describes the same services that were used to determine the applicable HH PPS payment rates. No additional services will be added by these updates; that is, new updates are required by changes to the coding system, not because the services subject to HH consolidated billing are being redefined.

Key Points

Effective January 1, 2013, the following HCPCS code is added to the HH consolidated billing supply code list:

- A4435 - Ostomy pouch, drainable, high output, with extended wear barrier (one-piece system), with or without filter, each.

In addition, there are 3 codes on the supply code list for which long descriptions are being modified to remove the words "pad size". They are as follows:

- A6021 - Collagen dressing, sterile, size 16 sq. in. or less, each
- A6022 - Collagen dressing, sterile, size more than 16 sq. in. but less than or equal to 48 sq. in., each
- A6023 - Collagen dressing, sterile, size more than 48 sq. in., each

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Additional Information

The official instruction, CR 8043, issued to your Medicare contractor regarding this change, may be viewed at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R2527CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

More information on HH consolidated billing is in the "Medicare Claims Processing Manual," Chapter 10, Section 20, which is available at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/clm104c10.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your FI, RHHI, carrier, DME MAC, or A/B MAC 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.

News Flash - Flu Season Isn't Over – Continue to Recommend Vaccination - While each flu season is different, flu activity typically peaks in February. Yet, even in February, the flu vaccine is still the best defense against the flu. The [CDC](#) recommends yearly flu vaccination for everyone 6 months of age and older; and although anyone can get the flu, adults 65 years and older are at greater risk for serious flu-related complications that can lead to hospitalization and death. Every office visit is an opportunity to check your patients' vaccination status and encourage flu vaccination when appropriate. And getting vaccinated is just as important for health care personnel who can get sick with the flu and spread it to family, colleagues and patients. Be an example by getting your flu vaccine and know that you're helping to reduce the spread of flu in your community. Note: influenza vaccines and their administration fees are covered Part B benefits. Influenza vaccines are NOT Part D-covered drugs. *For More Information:*

- 2012-2013 [Seasonal Influenza Vaccines Pricing](#). [MLN Matters® Article MM8047](#), "Influenza Vaccine Payment Allowances - Annual Update for 2012-2013 Season."
- "[CMS Medicare Learning Network® 2012-2013 Seasonal Influenza Virus Educational Products and Resources](#) and [CMS Immunizations](#) web pages for information on coverage and billing."
- [HealthMap Vaccine Finder](#) – a free, online service where users can find nearby locations offering flu vaccines as well as other vaccines for adults.
- The [CDC's](#) website offers a variety of provider resources for the 2012-2013 flu season.

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