

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



News Flash – The Medicare Learning Network® (MLN) Product Ordering System was recently upgraded to add new enhancements. You can now view an image of the product and access its downloadable version, if available, before placing your order. To access a new or revised product available for order in hard copy format, go to [MLN Products](#) and click on “MLN Product Ordering Page” under “Related Links” at the bottom of the web page.

MLN Matters® Number: MM8129

Related Change Request (CR) #: CR 8129

Related CR Release Date: November 30, 2012

Effective Date: January 1, 2013

Related CR Transmittal #: R2600CP

Implementation Date: January 7, 2013

Therapy Cap Values for Calendar Year (CY) 2013

Provider Types Affected

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

What You Need to Know

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 8129, which describes the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) policy for outpatient therapy caps for Calendar Year (CY) 2013. **The therapy caps for 2013 will be \$1900 for physical therapy and speech-language therapy combined and \$1900 for occupational therapy.** Make sure that your billing staffs are aware of this update.

Background

The Balanced Budget Act of 1997, P.L. 105-33, Section 4541(c) set annual caps for Part B Medicare patients. These limits change annually. The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 directed the Secretary to

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implement a process for exceptions to therapy caps for medically necessary services. The Affordable Care Act extended the exceptions to therapy caps through December 31, 2010; the Medicare and Medicaid Extenders Act (MMEA) of 2010 extended the therapy caps exceptions through December 31, 2011; and Section 3005 (g) of the Middle Class Tax Relief And Job Creation Act (MCTRJCA) of 2012 extended the therapy caps exceptions through December 31, 2012.

Additional Information

The official instruction, CR8129, issued to your FI, RHHI, carrier, and A/B MAC regarding this change may be viewed at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R2600CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your FI, RHHI, carrier, 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 - Diabetes and the Seasonal Flu - November is National Diabetes Awareness Month. Diabetes can weaken the immune system, which can put seniors and others with diabetes at greater risk for flu-related complications like pneumonia. Medicare provides coverage for one seasonal influenza virus vaccine per influenza season for all Medicare beneficiaries. Medicare generally provides coverage of the pneumococcal vaccination and its administration once in a lifetime for all Medicare beneficiaries. Medicare may provide coverage of additional pneumococcal vaccinations based on risk or uncertainty of beneficiary pneumococcal vaccination status. Medicare provides coverage for the seasonal flu and pneumococcal vaccines and their administration for seniors and others with Medicare with no co-pay or deductible. And remember, seasonal flu vaccine is particularly important for health care workers, who may spread the flu to their patients. Don't forget to immunize yourself and your staff. Protect your patients. Protect your family. Protect yourself. *Know what to do about the flu.*

Remember – The influenza vaccine plus its administration and the pneumococcal vaccine plus its administration are covered Part B benefits. The influenza vaccine and pneumococcal vaccine are NOT Part D-covered drugs. CMS has posted the 2012-2013 [Seasonal Influenza Vaccines Pricing on the CMS website](#). You may also refer to the [MLN Matters® Article #MM8047](#), "Influenza Vaccine Payment Allowances - Annual Update for 2012-2013 Season."

For more information on coverage and billing of the flu vaccine and its administration, please visit the [CMS Medicare Learning Network® Preventive Services Educational Products](#) and [CMS Immunizations](#) web pages. And, while some providers may offer the flu vaccine, others can help their patients locate a vaccine provider within their local community. [HealthMap Vaccine Finder](#) is a free, online service where users can search for locations offering flu vaccines.

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