

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



News Flash -

Revised product from the Medicare Learning Network® (MLN)

- ["Medicare Vision Services,"](#) Fact Sheet, ICN 907165, Downloadable only.

MLN Matters® Number: MM8247

Related Change Request (CR) #: CR 8247

Related CR Release Date: March 15, 2013

Effective Date: July 1, 2013

Related CR Transmittal #: R2676CP

Implementation Date: July 1, 2013

July 2013 Quarterly Average Sales Price (ASP) Medicare Part B Drug Pricing Files and Revisions to Prior Quarterly Pricing Files

Provider Types Affected

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

Provider Action Needed



STOP – Impact to You

Medicare will use the July 2013 quarterly Average Sales Price (ASP) Medicare Part B drug pricing files to determine the payment limit for claims for separately payable Medicare Part B drugs processed or reprocessed on or after July 1, 2013, with dates of service July 1, 2013, through September 30, 2013.

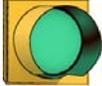
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CAUTION – What You Need to Know

Also, Change Request (CR) 8247, from which this article is taken, instructs your Medicare contractors to download and implement the July 2013 ASP Medicare Part B drug pricing file for Medicare Part B drugs and, if released by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), to also download and implement the revised April 2013, January 2013, October 2012, and July 2012 files.



GO – What You Need to Do

Make sure that your billing staffs are aware of the release of these July 2013 ASP Medicare Part B drug files.

Background

The ASP methodology is based on quarterly data submitted to CMS by manufacturers. CMS will supply Medicare contractors with the ASP and Not Otherwise Classified (NOC) drug pricing files for Medicare Part B drugs on a quarterly basis. Payment allowance limits under the Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) are incorporated into the Outpatient Code Editor (OCE) through separate instructions that can be located in the Medicare Claims Processing Manual (Chapter 4 (Part B Hospital (Including Inpatient Hospital Part B and OPPS)), Section 50 (Outpatient PRICER); see <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/clm104c04.pdf> on the CMS website.

The following table shows how the quarterly payment files will be applied:

| Files | Effective for Dates of Service |
|------------------------------|--|
| July 2013 ASP and ASP NOC | July 1, 2013, through September 30, 2013 |
| April 2013 ASP and ASP NOC | April 1, 2013, through June 30, 2013 |
| January 2013 ASP and ASP NOC | January 1, 2013, through March 31, 2013 |
| October 2012 ASP and ASP NOC | October 1, 2012, through December 31, 2012 |
| July 2012 ASP and ASP NOC | July 1, 2012, through September 30, 2012 |

Additional Information

The official instruction, CR 8247 issued to your FI, carrier, A/B MAC, RHHI or DME/MAC regarding this change may be viewed at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R2676CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

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

Flu Activity Continues: Prompt Antiviral Treatment is Crucial for Seniors Sick with Flu

This season, flu activity started early and has placed a significant burden on people 65 years of age and older. In fact, so far this season, CDC has reported nearly four times more hospitalizations among people 65 and older than occurred during the entire 2011-2012 season. The CDC recommends that vaccination efforts continue as long as influenza viruses are circulating. People 65 years of age and older, as well as their close contacts and caregivers, should be vaccinated; and should seek medical treatment with antiviral drugs as soon as symptoms appear in order to reduce serious complications from flu infection, including hospitalizations, intensive care unit (ICU) admissions and deaths.

Note: Influenza vaccine and its administration is a Medicare Part B covered benefit. Influenza vaccines are NOT Part D-covered drugs.

For More Information:

- 2012-2013 [Seasonal Influenza Vaccines Pricing](#) list.
- [MLN Matters® Article #MM8047](#), "Influenza Vaccine Payment Allowances - Annual Update for 2012-2013 Season".
- Visit the [CMS Medicare Learning Network® 2012-2013 Seasonal Influenza Virus Educational Products and Resources](#) and [CMS Immunizations](#) web pages for information on coverage and billing of the flu vaccines and their administration fees.
- [HealthMap Vaccine Finder](#) is a free, online service where users can find locations offering flu vaccines as well as other vaccines for adults.
- [CDC](#) website offers a variety of provider resources for the 2012-2013 flu season. CDC article [Seniors among Groups Hardest Hit by Flu this Season](#)

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