

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



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Preventive and Screening Services — Update - Intensive Behavioral Therapy for Obesity, Screening Digital Tomosynthesis Mammography, and Anesthesia Associated with Screening Colonoscopy

Note: This article was revised on July 24, 2017, to add a link to a related MLN Matters Article, [MM10075](#). That article stated that CR10075 ensures accurate program payment for moderate sedation services furnished in conjunction with screening colonoscopy services for which the beneficiary should not be charged the coinsurance or deductible. All other information is unchanged.

Provider Types Affected

This MLN Matters® Article is intended for Medicare practitioners providing preventive and screening services to Medicare beneficiaries and billing Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for those services.

Provider Action Needed

Change Request (CR) 8874 is an update from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to ensure accurate program payment for three screening services. The coinsurance and deductible for these services are currently waived, but due to coding changes and additions, the payments for Calendar Year (CY) 2015 would not be accurate without updated CR8874 for intensive behavioral group therapy for obesity, digital breast tomosynthesis, and anesthesia associated with screening colonoscopy. Make sure billing staffs are aware of these updates.

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Background

The following outlines the CMS updates:

Intensive Behavioral Therapy for Obesity

Intensive behavioral therapy for obesity became a covered preventive service under Medicare, effective November 29, 2011. It is reported with HCPCS code G0447 (Face-to-face behavioral counseling for obesity, 15 minutes). Coverage requirements are in the “Medicare National Coverage Determinations (NCDs) Manual,” Chapter 1, Section 210.

To improve payment accuracy, in CY 2015 Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) Proposed Rule, CMS created a new HCPCS code for the reporting and payment of behavioral group counseling for obesity -- HCPCS codes G0473 (Face-to-face behavioral counseling for obesity, group (2-10), 30 minutes).

For coverage requirements of intensive behavioral therapy for obesity, see the NCD for Intensive Behavioral Therapy for Obesity.

The same claims editing that applies to G0447 applies to G0473. Therefore, effective for claims with dates of service on or after January 1, 2015, MACs will recognize HCPCS code G0473, but only when billed with one of the ICD-9 codes for Body Mass Index (BMI) 30.0 and over (V85.30,-V85.39, V85.41-V85.45). (Once ICD-10 is effective, the related ICD-10 codes are Z68.30-Z68.39 and Z68.41-Z68.45.) When claims for G0473 are submitted without a required diagnosis code, they will be denied using the following remittance codes:

- Claim Adjustment Reason Code (CARC) 167: This (these) diagnosis(es) is (are) not covered. Note: Refer to the 835 Healthcare Policy Identification Segment (loop 2110 Service Payment Information REF), if present.
- Remittance Advice Remarks Code (RARC) N386: This decision was based on a National Coverage Determination (NCD). An NCD provides a coverage determination as to whether a particular item or service is covered. A copy of this policy is available at www.cms.mcd.search.asp. If you do not have web access, you may contact the contractor to request a copy of the NCD.

Effective for claims with dates of service on or after January 1, 2015, beneficiary coinsurance and deductible do not apply to claim lines with HCPCS code G0473.

Note that Medicare pays claims with code G0473 only when submitted by the following provider specialty types as found on the provider's Medicare enrollment record:

- 01 - General Practice
- 08 - Family Practice
- 11 - Internal Medicine
- 16 - Obstetrics/Gynecology
- 37 - Pediatric Medicine
- 38 - Geriatric Medicine

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- 50 - Nurse Practitioner
- 89 - Certified Clinical Nurse Specialist
- 97 - Physician Assistant

Claim lines submitted with G0473, but without an appropriate provider specialty will be denied with the following remittance codes:

- CARC 8: The procedure code is inconsistent with the provider type/specialty (taxonomy). Note: Refer to the 835 Healthcare Policy Identification Segment (loop 2110 Service Payment Information REF), if present.
- RARC N95: This provider type/provider specialty may not bill this service.
- Group Code CO (if GZ modifier present) or PR (if modifier GA is present).

Further, effective for dates of service on or after January 1, 2015, claim lines with G0473 are only payable for the following Places of Service (POS) codes:

- 11 - Physician's Office
- 22 - Outpatient Hospital
- 49 - Independent Clinic
- 71 - State or local public health clinic

Claim lines for G0473 will be denied without an appropriate POS code using the following remittance codes:

- CARC 5: The procedure code/bill type is inconsistent with the place of service. Note: Refer to the 835 Healthcare Policy Identification Segment (loop 2110 Service Payment Information REF), if present.
- RARC M77: Missing/incomplete/invalid place of service.
- Group Code CO (if GZ modifier present) or PR (if modifier GA is present).

Remember that Medicare will deny claim lines billed for HCPCS codes G0447 and G0473 if billed more than 22 times in a 12-month period using the following codes:

- CARC 119: Benefit maximum for this time period or occurrence has been reached.
- RARC N362: The number of days or units of service exceeds our acceptable maximum.
- Group Code CO (if GZ modifier present) or PR (if modifier GA is present).

Note: MACs will display the next eligible date for obesity counseling on all MAC provider inquiry screens.

MACs will allow both a claim for the professional service and a claim for a facility fee for G0473 when that code is billed on type of bill (TOB) 13X or on TOB 85X when revenue code 096X, 097X, or 098X is on the TOB 85X. Payment on such claims is based on the following:

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- TOB 13X paid based on the OPPS:
- TOB 85X in Critical Access Hospitals based on reasonable cost; except
- TOB 85X Method II hospitals based on 115 percent of the lesser of the fee schedule amount or the submitted charge.

Institutional claims submitted on other than TOB 13X or 85X will be denied using:

- CARC 171: Payment is denied when performed by this type of provider on this type of facility. Note: Refer to the 835 Healthcare Policy Identification Segment (loop 2110 Service Payment Information REF), if present.
- RARC N428: Not covered when performed in this place of service.
- Group Code CO (if GZ modifier present) or PR (if modifier GA is present).

Digital Breast Tomosynthesis

In the CY 2015 PFS Final Rule with comment period, CMS established a payment rate for the newly created CPT code 77063 for screening digital breast tomosynthesis mammography. The same policies that are applicable to other screening mammography codes are applicable to CPT code 77063. In addition, since this is an add-on code it should only be paid when furnished in conjunction with a 2D digital mammography.

Effective January 1, 2015, HCPCS code 77063 (Screening digital breast tomosynthesis, bilateral (list separately in addition to code for primary procedure)), must be billed in conjunction with the screening mammography HCPCS code G0202 (Screening mammography, producing direct digital image, bilateral, all views, 2D imaging only. Effective January 1, 2015, beneficiary coinsurance and deductible does not apply to claim lines with 77063 (Screening digital breast tomosynthesis, bilateral (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)).

Payment for 77063 is made only when billed with an ICD-9 code of V76.11 or V76.12 (and when ICD-10 is effective with ICD-10 code Z12.31). When denying claim lines for 77063 that are submitted without the appropriate diagnosis code, the claim lines are denied using the following messages:

- CARC 167: This (these) diagnosis(es) is (are) not covered. Note: Refer to the 835 Healthcare Policy Identification Segment (loop 2110 Service Payment Information REF), if present.
- RARC N386: This decision was based on a National Coverage Determination (NCD). An NCD provides a coverage determination as to whether a particular item or service is covered. A copy of this policy is available at www.cms.mcd.search.asp. If you do not have web access, you may contact the contractor to request a copy of the NCD.
- Group Code CO (if GZ modifier present) or PR (if modifier GA is present).

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On institutional claims:

- MACs will pay for tomosynthesis, HCPCS code 77063, on TOBs 12X, 13X, 22X, 23X based on MPFS, and TOB 85X with revenue code other than 096x, 097x, or 098x based on reasonable cost. TOB 85X claims with revenue code 096x, 097x, or 098x are paid based on MPFS (115% of the lesser of the fee schedule amount and submitted charge).
- MACs will pay for tomosynthesis, HCPCS code 77063 with revenue codes 096X, 097X, or 098X when billed on TOB 85X Method II based on 115% of the lesser of the fee schedule amount or submitted charge.
- MACs will return to the provider any claim submitted with tomosynthesis, HCPCS code 77063 when the TOB is not 12X, 13X, 22X, 23X, or 85X.
- MACs will pay for tomosynthesis, HCPCS code 77063, on institutional claims TOBs 12X, 13X, 22X, 23X, and 85X when submitted with revenue code 0403 and on professional claims TOB 85X when submitted with revenue code 096X, 097X, or 098X.
- Effective for claims with dates of service on or after January 1, 2015, MACs will RTP claims for HCPCS code 77063 that are not submitted with revenue code 0403, 096X, 097X, or 098X.

Anesthesia Furnished in Conjunction with Colonoscopy

Section 4104 of the Affordable Care Act defined the term “preventive services” to include “colorectal cancer screening tests” and as a result it waives any coinsurance that would otherwise apply under Section 1833(a)(1) of the Act for screening colonoscopies. In addition, the Affordable Care Act amended Section 1833(b)(1) of the Act to waive the Part B deductible for screening colonoscopies. These provisions are effective for services furnished on or after January 1, 2011.

In the CY 2015 PFS Proposed Rule, CMS proposed to revise the definition of “colorectal cancer screening tests” to include anesthesia separately furnished in conjunction with screening colonoscopies; and in the CY 2015 PFS Final Rule with comment period, CMS finalized this proposal. The definition of “colorectal cancer screening tests” includes anesthesia separately furnished in conjunction with screening colonoscopies in the Medicare regulations at Section 410.37(a)(1)(iii). As a result, beneficiary coinsurance and deductible does not apply to anesthesia services associated with screening colonoscopies.

As a result, effective for claims with dates of service on or after January 1, 2015, anesthesia professionals who furnish a separately payable anesthesia service in conjunction with a screening colonoscopy (HCPCS code 00810 performed in conjunction with G0105 and G0121) shall include the following on the claim for the services that qualify for the waiver of coinsurance and deductible:

- *Modifier 33 – Preventive Services:* when the primary purpose of the service is the delivery of an evidence based service in accordance with a USPSTF A or B rating in effect and other preventive services identified in preventive services mandates (legislative or regulatory), the service may be identified by adding 33 to the procedure. For separately reported services specifically identified as preventive, the modifier should not be used.

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In addition, deductible is not applied to claim lines with HCPCS 00810 services that are billed with the PT modifier for services on or after January 1, 2015. The deductible is also not applied when the PT modifier is appended to at least either one of the CPT codes within the surgical range of CPT codes (10000-69999) or HCPCS codes G6018-G6028 on the claim for services that were furnished on the same date of service as the procedure. But, MACs will apply deductible and coinsurance to claim lines for HCPCS 00810 services billed without modifier 33 or modifier PT.

Additional Information

The official instruction, CR8874 issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R3232CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your MAC at their toll-free number. That number is available at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Net-work-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/index.html> under - How Does It Work.

Document History

Date	Description
July 24, 2017	The article was revised to add a link to a related MLN Matters Article, MM10075 . That article stated that CR 10075 ensures accurate program payment for moderate sedation services furnished in conjunction with screening colonoscopy services for which the beneficiary should not be charged the coinsurance or deductible. All other information is unchanged.
August 27, 2015	The article was revised to add a reference link to MM9191 (http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Net-work-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/MM9191.pdf) that informs providers that there is also a Diagnostic Digital Breast Tomosynthesis code (G0279) and the circumstances where it may be covered by Medicare.
April 8, 2015	The article was revised to reflect the revised CR8874 issued on April 3, 2015. In the article, the CR release date, transmittal number, and the Web address for accessing CR8874 were revised. In addition, information regarding deductible and coinsurance applicability to HCPCS 00810 services on page 6 of the article is updated.
December 14, 2015	Initial Article Issued

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