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Update to Billing Requirements for Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Scans for Dementia and Neurodegenerative Diseases and Update for Special Payment Procedures for all PET Scan Services Performed in Critical Access Hospitals

Note: This article was revised on March 25, 2014, to add a reference to MLN Matters® article MM8526 (**http://www.cms.gov/outreach-and-education/medicare-learning-network-mln/mlnmattersarticles/downloads/MM8526.pdf**) to alert providers to a new NCD that affects PET Aβ scans. Effective for claims with dates of service beginning September 27, 2013, CMS will only allow coverage for PET Aβ. imaging (one PET Aβ scan per patient) through coverage with evidence development to: (1) develop better treatment or prevention strategies for Alzheimer's Disease (AD) or as a strategy to identify subpopulations at risk for developing AD or (2) to resolve clinically difficult differential diagnoses when the use of PET Aβ imaging appears to improve health outcomes when the patient is enrolled in an approved clinical study under CED. All other information is unchanged

Provider Types Affected

Providers and suppliers who bill Medicare carriers and fiscal intermediaries for PET Scan services

Provider Action Needed

STOP – Impact to You

This article explains updates to the *Medicare Claims Processing Manual* related to 2-deoxy-2- [F-18] fluoro-D-glucose Positron Emission Tomography (FDG-PET) Scans.

CAUTION – What You Need to Know

Information for the payment method for all PET scans provided in critical access hospitals has also been added to the *Medicare Claims Processing Manual*.

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GO – What You Need to Do

Use of the correct codes and understanding of the reimbursement methods will help Medicare make prompt and correct payments for PET scan services.

Background

The Radiology Services and Other Diagnostic Procedures Chapter of the *Medicare Claims Processing Manual* has been updated in regard to billing requirements and coverage for 2-deoxy-2- [F-18] fluoro-D-glucose Positron Emission Tomography (FDG-PET) Scans for the differential diagnosis of Front-Temporal Dementia (FTD) and Alzheimer's Disease (AD).

There are three updates to the "Medicare Claims Processing Manual" related to FDG-PET Scans:

- The previous edit to allow HCPCS G0336 (PET imaging, brain imaging for the differential diagnosis of AD with aberrant features versus FTD) to be billed no more than once in a beneficiary's lifetime has been removed.
- Medicare Carriers and fiscal intermediaries must ensure that an appropriate diagnosis code accompanies the claim with HCPCS G0336. When submitting a claim for a FDG-PET Scan, one of the following diagnosis codes must accompany the HCPCS G0336 code: 290.0, 290.10 – 290.13, 290.20 – 290.21, 290.3, 331.0, 331.11, 331.19, 331.2, 331.9, 780.93.
- Line items with HCPCS code G0336 will be denied if one of the above diagnosis codes is not provided. Such denials will be reflected by claim adjustment reason code 11.
- The payment method for ALL PET Scan claims submitted for services provided in Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) is as follows: CAHs under Method I have technical services paid at 101 percent of reasonable cost; CAHs under Method II have technical services paid at 101 percent of reasonable cost; and Professional services are paid at 115 percent of the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Data Base.

Affected providers should issue an Advanced Beneficiary Notice to beneficiaries advising them of potential financial liability in the event that one of the appropriate diagnosis codes is not present on the claim.

All other billing requirements for PET Scans for dementia and neurodegenerative diseases remain the same.

Additional Information

The revised portion of Chapter 13, Section 60 of the *Medicare Claims Processing Manual* can be found as part of the official instruction issued to your carrier/intermediary

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regarding these changes. That instruction, CR3640, may be found at **http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R428CP.pdf** on the CMS site.

If you have any questions, please contact your intermediary 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.

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