



News Flash - The *Adult Immunizations* (October 2008) brochure for health care providers has been updated and is now available in downloadable PDF format from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Medicare Learning Network. This brochure provides an overview of Medicare's coverage of influenza, pneumococcal, and hepatitis B vaccines and their administration. To view, download, and print, please go to http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/Adult_Immunization.pdf on the CMS website.

MLN Matters Number: MM6162

Related Change Request (CR) #: 6162

Related CR Release Date: December 5, 2008

Effective Date: January 1, 2007

Related CR Transmittal #: R1643CP

Implementation Date: March 9, 2009

IHS Provider Payment to non-IHS Physicians for Teleradiology Interpretations

Provider Types Affected

Indian Health Service (IHS) hospital providers, and physicians, who bill the designated IHS Medicare Administrative Contractors (MAC) for providing teleradiology interpretation services for Medicare beneficiaries.

What You Need to Know

CR 6162, from which this article is taken, defines and describes the mechanisms that IHS providers should use when you contract with non-IHS physicians for teleradiological interpretations. Make sure that your billing staffs are aware of the mechanisms for payment of non-IHS physician teleradiology interpretation services.

Background

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.

IHS hospital providers, faced with large geographic catchment areas and wide dispersions of their American Indian/Native Alaskan user populations, must frequently contract with non-IHS physicians to provide their physician services.

Note: The arrangements for payment in these situations are unique to IHS facilities and the Jurisdiction 4 Medicare Administrative Contractor (J4 MAC).

Specifically, CR 6162, from which this article is taken, addresses the mechanisms that IHS hospital providers should use when contracting with non-IHS physicians for the interpretation of radiological tests.

Should you choose to purchase (or otherwise contract for) teleradiology interpretation and related services from non-IHS practitioners, there are two methods which you may use one of the following two methodologies:

(1) Contractual Reassignment

Under this provision, non-IHS physicians can reassign their benefits to the ordering IHS provider. To provide these services, the non-IHS physician will need to enroll with the designated IHS MAC and complete an 855-R form.

(2) Purchased Test

The purchased test method is available when all applicable rules of independence are met (the physician ordering the test must not be an IHS employee). While all general jurisdictional and pricing rules apply for payment for these services, payment for teleradiology interpretation services under this option does not require the non-IHS physicians' enrollment with the designated IHS carrier or A/B MAC contractor.

You should be aware that Medicare carriers and MACS do not have to search their files to either retract payment for claims already paid or to retroactively pay claims; but they will adjust claims that you bring to their attention.

Additional Information

The official instruction issued to your MAC is available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1643CP.pdf> on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website.

If you have any questions, please contact the designated IHS MAC at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website.

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.