



News Flash - The Medicare Disproportionate Share Hospital Fact Sheet (revised April 2008) is now available in print format. This fact sheet provides information about methods to qualify for the Medicare Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) adjustment; Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 and Deficit Reduction Act of 2005; number of beds in hospital determination; and Medicare DSH payment adjustment formulas. To place your order, visit <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/mlngeninfo/>, scroll down to "Related Links Inside CMS" and select "MLN Product Ordering Page."

MLN Matters Number: MM6196

Related Change Request (CR) #: 6196

Related CR Release Date: September 19, 2008

Effective Date: October 1, 2008

Related CR Transmittal #: R1599CP

Implementation Date: October 6, 2008

October 2008 Update of the Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS)

Provider Types Affected

Providers and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare contractors (Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs), Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs), and/or Regional Home Health Intermediaries (RHHIs)) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries and paid under the OPPS.

Provider Action Needed



STOP - Impact to You

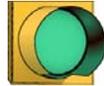
This article is based on Change Request (CR) 6196 which describes changes to, and billing instructions for various payment policies implemented in the October 2008 OPPS update.

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**CAUTION – What You Need to Know**

The October 2008 Integrated Code Editor (I/OCE) and OPPS PRICER will reflect the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS), Ambulatory Payment Classification (APC), HCPCS Modifier, and Revenue Code additions, changes, and deletions identified in this notification. October 2008 revisions to I/OCE data files, instructions, and specifications are provided in Change Request (CR) 6186, October 2008 Integrated Outpatient Code Editor (I/OCE) Specifications Version 9.3.

**GO – What You Need to Do**

See the Background and Additional Information Sections of this article for further details regarding these changes.

Background

This Recurring Update Notification describes changes to, and billing instructions for various payment policies implemented in the October 2008 OPPS update. The October 2008 Integrated Code Editor (I/OCE) and OPPS PRICER will reflect the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS), Ambulatory Payment Classification (APC), HCPCS Modifier, and Revenue Code additions, changes, and deletions identified in CR 6196.

October 2008 revisions to I/OCE data files, instructions, and specifications are provided in Change Request (CR) 6186, "October 2008 Integrated Outpatient Code Editor (I/OCE) Specifications Version 9.3" which has a related MLN Matters article at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6186.pdf> on the CMS website.

Key Points of CR 6196

1. Revenue Code Reporting

Hospitals must continue to report HCPCS codes and charges with an appropriate UB revenue code consistent with NUBC requirements. When reporting the appropriate revenue code for services, hospitals should choose the most precise revenue code, or subcode, if appropriate. As NUBC guidelines dictate, "It is recommended that providers use the more detailed subcategory when applicable/available rather than revenue codes that end in "0" (General) or "9" (Other)."

Hospitals are required to follow the Medicare cost apportionment regulations at 42 CFR 413.53(a)(1) which convey that, under the departmental method of

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apportionment, the cost of each ancillary department is to be apportioned separately rather than being combined with another department. In order to comply with the requirements of this regulation, hospitals must follow the Medicare reimbursement policies in The Provider Reimbursement Manual I (PRM-I), Section 2302.8 and PRM-II in order to ensure that their ancillary costs and charges are reported in the appropriate cost centers on the cost report. The PRM manuals are available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Manuals/PBM/list.asp> on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website.

CMS relies on hospitals to fully comply with the revenue code reporting instructions and Medicare cost apportionment policies because the CMS uses a revenue code to cost center crosswalk to estimate the service costs that underpin OPPS payment rates. The current revenue code to cost center crosswalk that CMS uses for setting annual hospital outpatient payments may be found on the CMS web site at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/HospitalOutpatientPPS/03_crosswalk.asp#TopOfPage on the CMS website. CMS always invites reviews of this crosswalk and welcomes comments. The accuracy of hospital outpatient payments for future years depends on hospitals appropriately implementing NUBC instructions and reporting appropriate revenue codes, and following all cost report instructions.

2. Payment for Radiology Services Reported with Modifier-52

CMS is revising the Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 4, Section 20.6.6 to remove language incorrectly stating that payment is not reduced for radiology services reported with modifier -52 (Reduced Services). As indicated in Section 20.6.4 of the same manual, modifier -52 should be appended to procedures for which anesthesia is not planned that are discontinued after the patient is prepared and taken to the room where the procedure is to be performed. These procedures are paid at 50 percent of the full OPPS payment amount. The revised Section 20.6.6 of the Medicare Claims Processing Manual is attached to CR 6196.

3. Changes to Procedure and Device Edits for October 2008

Procedure to device edits require that when a particular procedural HCPCS code is billed, the claim must also contain an appropriate device code. Failure to pass these edits will result in the claim being returned to the provider. Device to procedure edits require that a claim that contains one of a specified set of device codes be returned to the provider if it fails to contain an appropriate procedure code. The updated lists of both types of edits can be found under "2008 Device and Procedure Edits" at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/HospitalOutpatientPPS/> on the CMS website.

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4. Billing for Devices

CMS is revising the Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 4, Section 61.1 to clarify correct HCPCS coding and charge reporting for all devices that are used to perform procedures that require the use of devices where such codes exist and are designated with a status indicator of "N" (for packaged payment) or "H" (for pass-through device payment) in the OPPS Addendum B that applies to the date of service. If there are device HCPCS codes with status indicators other than "N" or "H" that describe devices that are used to perform the procedure or that are furnished because they are necessary for the function of an implanted device, hospitals should report the charges for those other devices on an uncoded revenue code line, but should not report the HCPCS codes for those items. Typically, payment for the costs of all internal and external components required for the function of a nonpass-through device is packaged into the APC payment for the associated procedure in which the device is used. Accurate reporting of HCPCS codes and charges for these internal and external device components is necessary so that the OPPS payment for the associated procedures will be correct in future years in which the claims are used to set the APC payment rates. The revised Section 61.1 of the Medicare Claims Processing Manual is attached to CR 6196.

5. Billing for Medical and Surgical Supplies

When medical and surgical supplies described by HCPCS codes with status indicators other than "H" or "N" are provided incident to a physician's service by a hospital outpatient department, the HCPCS codes for these items should not be reported because these items represent supplies. Claims containing charges for medical and surgical supplies used in providing hospital outpatient services are submitted to the Medicare contractor providing OPPS payment for the services in which they are used. The hospital should include charges associated with these medical and surgical supplies on claims so their costs are incorporated in ratesetting, and payment for the supplies is packaged into payment for the associated procedures under the OPPS in accordance with 42 CFR 419.2(b)(4).

For example, if the hospital staff in the emergency department initiate the intravenous administration of a drug through an infusion pump described by HCPCS code E0781 (Ambulatory infusion pump, single or multiple channels, electric or battery operated, with administrative equipment, worn by patient), complete the drug infusion, and discontinue use of the infusion pump before the patient leaves the hospital outpatient department, HCPCS code E0781 should not be reported because the infusion pump was used as a supply and would be paid through OPPS payment for the drug administration service. The hospital should include the charge associated with the infusion pump on the claim.

In another example, if hospital outpatient staff perform a surgical procedure on a patient in which temporary bladder catheterization is necessary and use a catheter

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described by HCPCS code A4338 (Indwelling catheter; Foley type, two-way latex with coating (Teflon, silicone, silicone elastomer, or hydrophilic, etc.), each), the hospital should not report A4338 because the catheter was used as a supply and would be paid through OPPS payment for the surgical procedure. The hospital should include the charge associated with the urinary catheter on the claim.

6. Billing for Drugs, Biologicals, and Radiopharmaceuticals

Hospitals are strongly encouraged to report charges for all drugs, biologicals, and radiopharmaceuticals, regardless of whether the items are paid separately or packaged, using the correct HCPCS codes for the items used. It is also of great importance that hospitals billing for these products make certain that the reported units of service of the reported HCPCS codes are consistent with the quantity of a drug, biological, or radiopharmaceutical that was used in the care of the patient.

CMS reminds hospitals that under the OPPS, if two or more drugs or biologicals are mixed together to facilitate administration, the correct HCPCS codes should be reported separately for each product used in the care of the patient. The mixing together of two or more products does not constitute a "new" drug as regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) under the New Drug Application (NDA) process. In these situations, hospitals are reminded that it is not appropriate to bill HCPCS code C9399. HCPCS code C9399, Unclassified drug or biological, is for new drugs and biologicals that are approved by the FDA on or after January 1, 2004, for which a HCPCS code has not been assigned.

Unless otherwise specified in the long description, HCPCS descriptions refer to the non-compounded, FDA-approved final product. If a product is compounded and a specific HCPCS code does not exist for the compounded product, the hospital should report an appropriate unlisted code such as J9999 or J3490.

a. Drugs and Biologicals with Payments Based on Average Sales Price (ASP) Effective October 1, 2008

In the CY 2008 OPPS final rule, it was stated that payments for separately payable drugs and biologicals based on average sale prices (ASPs) will be updated on a quarterly basis as later quarter ASP submissions become available. In cases where adjustments to payment rates are necessary based on the most recent ASP submissions, CMS will incorporate changes to the payment rates in the October 2008 release of the OPPS PRICER. The updated payment rates, effective October 1, 2008, will be included in the October 2008 update of the OPPS Addendum A and Addendum B, which will be posted at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/HospitalOutpatientPPS/AU/list.asp> on the CMS website shortly.

b. Drugs and Biologicals with OPPS Pass-Through Status Effective October 1, 2008

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Three drugs have been granted OPPS pass-through status effective October 1, 2008, as noted in the following table.

HCPCS Code	Long Descriptor	SI	APC
J9225	Histrelin implant (Vantas), 50 mg	G	1711
C9243*	Injection, bendamustine hcl, 1 mg	G	9243
C9359*	Porous purified collagen matrix bone void filler (Integra Mozaik Osteoconductive Scaffold Putty, Integra OS Osteoconductive Scaffold Putty), per 0.5cc	G	9359

Table 1-Drugs Granted Pass-Through Status Effective October 1, 2008

NOTE: Those HCPCS codes identified with a "*" indicate that they are new codes effective October 1, 2008.

c. New HCPCS Codes for Drugs and Biologicals

There is one new drug HCPCS code for October 2008. HCPCS code C9244 (Injection, regadenoson, 0.4 mg) is assigned status indicator "K" and is assigned to APC 9244 effective October 1, 2008.

d. Updated Payment Rates for Certain HCPCS Codes Effective January 1, 2008 through March 31, 2008

The payment rates for several HCPCS codes were incorrect in the January 2008 OPPS Pricer. The corrected payment rates are listed in Table 2 below and have been installed in the October 2008 OPPS Pricer, effective for services furnished on January 1, 2008 through implementation of the April 2008 update. If you have claims that were already processed for these HCPCS codes for services provided on or after January 1, 2008, and prior to April 1, 2008, your Medicare contractor will adjust the claims if you bring them to the attention of your contractor.

HCPCS Code	APC	Short Descriptor	Corrected Payment Rate	Corrected Minimum Unadjusted Copayment
J7324	0877	Orthovisc inj per dose	\$169.10	\$33.82
J9015	0807	Aldesleukin/single use vial	\$757.34	\$151.47
J9303	9235	Panitumumab injection	\$82.86	\$16.42

Table 2- Updated Payment Rates for Certain HCPCS Codes Effective January 1, 2008 through March 31, 2008

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e. Updated Payment Rates for Certain HCPCS Codes Effective April 1, 2008 through June 30, 2008

The payment rates for several HCPCS codes were incorrect in the April 2008 OPPS Pricer. The corrected payment rates are listed in Table 3 below and have been installed in the October 2008 OPPS Pricer, effective for services furnished on April 1, 2008 through implementation of the July 2008 update. If you have claims that were already processed for these HCPCS codes for services provided on or after April 1, 2008, and prior to July 1, 2008, your Medicare contractor will adjust the claims if you bring them to the attention of your contractor.

HCPCS Code	APC	Short Descriptor	Corrected Payment Rate	Corrected Minimum Unadjusted Copayment
J7324	0877	Orthovisc inj per dose	\$174.63	\$34.93
J9303	9235	Panitumumab injection	\$82.83	\$16.29
Q4096	1213	VWF complex, not Humate-P	\$0.65	\$0.13

Table 3- Updated Payment Rates for Certain HCPCS Codes Effective April 1, 2008 through June 30, 2008

f. Updated Payment Rates for Certain HCPCS Codes Effective July 1, 2008 through September 30, 2008

The payment rate for one HCPCS code was incorrect in the July 2008 OPPS Pricer. The corrected payment rate is listed in Table 4 below and has been installed in the October 2008 OPPS Pricer, effective for services furnished on July 1, 2008 through implementation of the October 2008 update. If you have claims that were already processed for this HCPCS code for services provided on or after July 1, 2008, and prior to October 1, 2008, your Medicare contractor will adjust the claims if you bring them to the attention of your contractor.

HCPCS Code	APC	Short Descriptor	Corrected Payment Rate	Corrected Minimum Unadjusted Copayment
J7324	0877	Orthovisc inj per dose	\$175.85	\$35.17

Table 4- Updated Payment Rates for Certain HCPCS Codes Effective July 1, 2008 through September 30, 2008

g. Correct Reporting of Drugs and Biologicals When Used As Implantable Devices

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Hospitals are not to bill separately for drug and biological HCPCS codes, with the exception of drugs and biologicals with pass-through status, when using these items as implantable devices (including as a scaffold or an alternative to human or nonhuman connective tissue or mesh used in a graft) during surgical procedures. Under the OPSS, hospitals are provided a packaged APC payment for surgical procedures that includes the cost of supportive items, including implantable devices without pass-through status. When using drugs and biologicals during surgical procedures as implantable devices, hospitals may include the charges for these items in their charge for the procedure, report the charge on an uncoded revenue center line, or report the charge under a device HCPCS code (if one exists) so these costs would appropriately contribute to the future median setting for the associated surgical procedure.

h. Correct Reporting of Units for Drugs

Hospitals and providers are reminded to ensure that units of drugs administered to patients are accurately reported in terms of the dosage specified in the full HCPCS code descriptor. That is, units should be reported in multiples of the units included in the HCPCS descriptor. For example, if the description for the drug code is 6 mg, and 6 mg of the drug was administered to the patient, the units billed should be 1. As another example, if the description for the drug code is 50 mg, but 200 mg of the drug was administered to the patient, the units billed should be 4. Providers and hospitals should not bill the units based on the way the drug is packaged, stored, or stocked. That is, if the HCPCS descriptor for the drug code specifies 1 mg and a 10 mg vial of the drug was administered to the patient, bill 10 units, even though only 1 vial was administered. The HCPCS short descriptors are limited to 28 characters, including spaces, so short descriptors do not always capture the complete description of the drug. Therefore, before submitting Medicare claims for drugs and biologicals, it is extremely important to review the complete long descriptors for the applicable HCPCS codes.

I. Correct Reporting of Outpatient Diagnostic Nuclear Medicine Procedures When a Radiolabeled Product is Provided in the Inpatient Setting

Effective January 1, 2008, under the OPSS, payment for diagnostic radiopharmaceuticals is packaged into payment for their associated nuclear medicine procedures. In order to ensure that CMS captures appropriate diagnostic radiopharmaceutical costs for future ratesetting purposes, CMS implemented nuclear medicine procedure-to-radiopharmaceutical edits in the I/OCE effective January 2008 that required a diagnostic radiopharmaceutical to be present on the same claim as a nuclear medicine procedure for payment under the OPSS to be made.

As is the standard process for edit lists under the OPSS, CMS reviews the appropriateness of the edits and considers modifying the edits quarterly as issues are brought to their attention. In April 2008, in response to several descriptions of

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specific clinical scenarios provided to CMS by members of the public, CMS added HCPCS code A9517 (Iodine I-131 sodium iodide capsule(s), therapeutic, per millicurie) to the list of radiopharmaceuticals that would be accepted for a nuclear medicine procedure claim to process. In addition, in July 2008, in response to additional comments and clinical scenarios provided to CMS by members of the public, CMS expanded the list of radiolabeled products that are accepted for nuclear medicine procedure claims to process to include all therapeutic radiopharmaceuticals and brachytherapy sources, in addition to all diagnostic radiopharmaceuticals.

Since these changes to the edit list were adopted for the July update, CMS has received additional reports of a clinical scenario where a radiolabeled product is provided to a patient by a hospital during an inpatient stay, and a nuclear medicine procedure follows after the patient has been discharged from the inpatient setting (typically days or weeks after the provision of the radiolabeled product). No additional radiolabeled product is administered to the patient for purposes of the nuclear medicine procedure. Payment for the radiolabeled product is bundled into payment for the inpatient admission, so the hospital is unable to report a HCPCS code for a radiolabeled product on the OPPS claim for the nuclear medicine procedure in order to meet the edit requirements.

Similar to other clinical scenarios CMS previously addressed through changes to the edit list, members of the public bringing this situation to CMS' attention has indicated that situations where these radiolabeled products would be provided to a hospital inpatient, with follow-up diagnostic imaging performed in the hospital outpatient setting days or weeks later, would be rare, but are sufficiently common that hospitals require a methodology to appropriately bill and be paid for the associated nuclear medicine procedures. As a result of these requests, for the October 2008 update CMS has created HCPCS code C9898 (Radiolabeled product provided during a hospital inpatient stay) to be reported by hospitals on outpatient claims for nuclear medicine procedures to indicate that a radiolabeled product that provides the radioactivity necessary for the reported diagnostic nuclear medicine procedure was provided during a hospital inpatient stay. This HCPCS code is assigned status indicator "N" because no separate payment is made for the code under the OPPS. The effective date of the code is January 1, 2008, the date the procedure-to-radiopharmaceutical edits were initially implemented. Because the Medicare claims processing system requires that there be a charge for each HCPCS code reported on the claim, hospitals should always report a token charge of less than \$1.01 for HCPCS code C9898. The date of service reported on the claim for HCPCS code C9898 should be the same as the date of service for the nuclear medicine procedure HCPCS code, which should always accompany the reporting of HCPCS code C9898.

With the specific exception described above for HCPCS code C9898, hospitals should only report HCPCS codes for products they provide in the hospital

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outpatient department and should not report a HCPCS code and charge for a radiolabeled product on the nuclear medicine procedure-to-radiolabeled product edit list solely for the purpose of bypassing those edits present in the I/OCE.

CMS expects that the majority of hospital outpatient claims for diagnostic nuclear medicine procedures will include reporting of a diagnostic radiopharmaceutical because both the radiopharmaceutical and the nuclear medicine procedure are provided in the hospital outpatient department, and that it will be only in uncommon circumstances that hospitals will provide a radiolabeled product during a hospital inpatient stay, followed by a diagnostic nuclear medicine procedure after the patient has been discharged. CMS will be monitoring claims to ensure that this is the case.

Therefore, beginning in October 2008, claims for diagnostic nuclear medicine procedures in which the radiolabeled product that provides the radioactivity for the study was furnished during a hospital inpatient stay will not be returned to the provider as long as the nuclear medicine procedure and HCPCS code C9898 are included on the same claim, with a token charge for HCPCS code C9898. HCPCS code C9898 should never be reported on a claim without a diagnostic nuclear medicine procedure that is subject to the nuclear medicine procedure-to-radiolabeled product edits. Hospitals may submit claims reporting HCPCS code C9898 for dates of service beginning January 1, 2008.

The complete list of updated nuclear medicine procedure-to-radiolabeled product edits can be found at

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/HospitalOutpatientPPS/02_device_procedure.asp on the CMS website.

j. Payment for Therapeutic Radiopharmaceuticals

The Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 requires CMS to pay for therapeutic radiopharmaceuticals for the period of July 1, 2008 through December 31, 2009, at hospitals' charges adjusted to the costs. Therefore, the prospective payment rates for the HCPCS codes listed in Table 5 below, which were listed in Addendum B to the CY 2008 final rule dated November 27, 2007, will not be used for payment during the period from July 1 through December 31, 2008, as CMS indicated in Transmittal 1536 (CR 6094 dated June 19, 2008; see <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/Downloads/R1536CP.pdf> on the CMS website). Instead, the status indicators of therapeutic radiopharmaceutical HCPCS codes which were previously paid at charges adjusted to cost will remain "H" effective July 1, 2008 through December 31, 2009, to indicate payment will be made for therapeutic radiopharmaceuticals at hospitals' charges adjusted to their costs.

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HCPCS Code	Long Descriptor	SI
A9517	Iodine I-131 sodium iodide capsule(s), therapeutic, per millicurie	H
A9530	Iodine I-131 sodium iodide solution, therapeutic, per millicurie	H
A9543	Yttrium Y-90 ibritumomab tiuxetan, therapeutic, per treatment dose, up to 40 millicuries	H
A9545	Iodine I-131 tositumomab, therapeutic, per treatment dose	H
A9563	Sodium phosphate P-32, therapeutic, per millicurie	H
A9564	Chromic phosphate P-32 suspension, therapeutic, per millicurie	H
A9600	Strontium Sr-89 chloride, therapeutic, per millicurie	H
A9605	Samarium Sm-153 lexidronamm, therapeutic, per 50 millicuries	H

Table 5 – Therapeutic Radiopharmaceuticals Paid At Charges Adjusted to Cost From July 1, 2008 through December 31, 2009

7. Payment for Brachytherapy Sources

The Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 requires CMS to pay for brachytherapy sources for the period of July 1, 2008 through December 31, 2009, at hospitals' charges adjusted to the costs (with the exception of C2637, which is non-payable, as noted in the table below). Therefore, the prospective payment rates for each source, which are listed in Addendum B to the CY 2008 final rule dated November 27, 2007, will not be used for payment during the period from July 1 through December 31, 2008, as CMS indicated in Transmittal 1536 (dated June 19, 2008; see <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/Downloads/R1536CP.pdf> on the CMS website.) Instead, the status indicators of brachytherapy source HCPCS codes (except C2637) which were previously paid at charges adjusted to cost will remain "H" effective July 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008, for payment of brachytherapy sources at hospitals' charges adjusted to their costs. In addition, because of their cost-based payment methodology through CY 2009, brachytherapy sources will not be eligible for outlier payments or for the rural sole community hospital (SCH) adjustment during that time period. CMS will provide new instructions at a later date for brachytherapy source payment effective January 1, 2010. The codes for separately paid brachytherapy sources, long descriptors, status indicators, and APCs for CY 2008 are listed in Table 6, the comprehensive brachytherapy source table below.

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NOTE: When billing for stranded sources, providers should bill the number of units of the appropriate source HCPCS C-code according to the number of brachytherapy sources in the strand, and should not bill as one unit per strand. See Transmittal 1259, CR 5623, issued June 1, 2007 at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/Downloads/R1259CP.pdf> on the CMS website, for further information on billing for brachytherapy sources and the OPPTS coding changes made for brachytherapy sources effective July 1, 2007.

HCPCS Code	Long Descriptor	SI	APC
A9527	Iodine I-125, sodium iodide solution, therapeutic, per millicurie	H	2632
C1716	Brachytherapy source, non-stranded, Gold-198, per source	H	1716
C1717	Brachytherapy source, non-stranded, High Dose Rate Iridium-192, per source	H	1717
C1719	Brachytherapy source, non-stranded, Non-High Dose Rate Iridium-192, per source	H	1719
C2616	Brachytherapy source, non-stranded, Yttrium-90, per source	H	2616
C2634	Brachytherapy source, non-stranded, High Activity, Iodine-125, greater than 1.01 mCi (NIST), per source	H	2634
C2635	Brachytherapy source, non-stranded, High Activity, Palladium-103, greater than 2.2 mCi (NIST), per source	H	2635
C2636	Brachytherapy linear source, non-stranded, Palladium-103, per 1MM	H	2636
C2637	Brachytherapy source, non-stranded, Ytterbium-169, per source	B	
C2638	Brachytherapy source, stranded, Iodine-125, per source	H	2638
C2639	Brachytherapy source, non-stranded, Iodine-125, per source	H	2639
C2640	Brachytherapy source, stranded, Palladium-103, per source	H	2640
C2641	Brachytherapy source, non-stranded, Palladium-103, per source	H	2641

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HCPSC Code	Long Descriptor	SI	APC
C2642	Brachytherapy source, stranded, Cesium-131, per source	H	2642
C2643	Brachytherapy source, non-stranded, Cesium-131, per source	H	2643
C2698	Brachytherapy source, stranded, not otherwise specified, per source	H	2698
C2699	Brachytherapy source, non-stranded, not otherwise specified, per source	H	2699

Table 6- Comprehensive List of Brachytherapy Sources Payable as of July 1, 2008

8. Mental Health codes on Partial Hospitalization (PH/PHP) Claims

If a hospital-based PHP bills with Condition Code 41 for mental health codes that are not on the PHP code list (List B) housed in the I/OCE, the I/OCE will return the claim to the provider (edit 80) with the claim message, "Mental Health (MH) code not approved for partial hospitalization program". Examples of current mental health codes that are not used in PHP processing are 90804, 90805, 90810, 90811, 96110, and 96111. These codes may be billed by the hospital but cannot be counted toward the 3 minimum services required to qualify for partial hospitalization.

9. Coverage Determinations

Remember that the fact that a drug, device, procedure or service is assigned a HCPCS code and a payment rate under the OPSS does not imply coverage by the Medicare program, but indicates only how the product, procedure, or service may be paid if covered by the program. Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs)/Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) determine whether a drug, device, procedure, or other service meets all program requirements for coverage. For example, FI/MACs determine that it is reasonable and necessary to treat the beneficiary's condition and whether it is excluded from payment.

Additional Information

The official instruction, CR 6196, issued to your FI, A/B MAC, and RHHI regarding this change may be viewed at

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<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1599CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your FI, A/B MAC, or RHHI at their toll-free number, which may be found at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website.

News Flash - Flu Shot Reminder - Flu Season Is Coming! It's not too early to start vaccinating as soon as you receive vaccine. Encourage your patients to get a flu shot as it is still their best defense against the influenza virus. *(Medicare provides coverage of the flu vaccine without any out-of-pocket costs to the Medicare patient. No deductible or copayment/coinsurance applies.)* And don't forget, health care workers also need to protect themselves. **Get Your Flu Shot. – Not the Flu.**
Remember - Influenza vaccine plus its administration are covered Part B benefits. Note that influenza vaccine is NOT a Part D covered drug. For information about Medicare's coverage of the influenza virus vaccine and its administration as well as related educational resources for health care professions and their staff, visit http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/Downloads/flu_products.pdf on the CMS website. To order, free of charge, a quick reference chart on Medicare Part B Immunization Billing, go to http://cms.meridianksi.com/kc/main/kc_frame.asp?kc_ident=kc0001&loc=5 on the CMS website.

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