



News Flash – Flu Season is upon us! CMS encourages providers to begin taking advantage of each office visit to encourage your patients with Medicare to get a seasonal flu shot; it's their best defense against combating seasonal flu this season. *(Medicare beneficiaries may receive the seasonal influenza vaccine without incurring any out-of-pocket costs. No deductible or copayment/coinsurance applies.)* For more information about Medicare's coverage of the seasonal influenza vaccine and its administration as well as related educational resources for health care professionals, please go to http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/35_PreventiveServices.asp on the CMS website.

MLN Matters® Number: MM6673

Related Change Request (CR) #: 6673

Related CR Release Date: October 16, 2009

Effective Date: January 1, 2010

Related CR Transmittal #: R1829

Implementation Date: January 4, 2010

Annual Clotting Factor Furnishing Fee Update

Provider Types Affected

This article is for providers billing Medicare carriers, fiscal intermediaries (FIs), Medicare Administrative Contractors (MAC), or Regional Home Health Intermediaries (RHHI) for services related to the administration of blood clotting factors to Medicare beneficiaries.

What You Need to Know

CR 6673, from which this article is taken, announces that for calendar year (CY) 2010, the blood clotting factor furnishing fee of \$0.170 per international unit (I.U.) is added to the payment limit for a blood clotting factor that is not included on the Average Sales Price (ASP) or Not Otherwise Classified (NOC) files.

Background

The Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA) Section 303(e)(1) added section 1842(o)(5)(C) to the Social Security Act (the Act) which requires that, beginning January 1, 2005, a furnishing fee be paid for items and services associated with the administration of blood clotting factors.

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It further specifies that for CY 2006 (and subsequent years) this furnishing fee will be equal to the fee for the previous year, increased by the percentage increase in the consumer price index (CPI) for medical care for the 12-month period ending with June of the previous year. The blood clotting furnishing factors for years 2005-2010 are displayed in the following table:

Blood Clotting Factor Furnishing Fee	
Furnishing Fee	Calendar Year
\$0.170 per I.U.	2010
\$0.164 per I.U.	2009
\$0.158 per I.U.	2008
\$0.152 per I.U.	2007
\$0.146 per I.U.	2006
\$0.140 per I.U.	2005

Previously, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) included the clotting factor furnishing fee in the payment limit for Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code J7197 "Antithrombin III (human), per I.U.". This code does not describe a hemophilia clotting factor, and therefore the payment limit for it should not include the clotting factor furnishing fee. Thus, CR 6673 provides further clarification that the payment limit for J7197 does not include the clotting factor furnishing fee and Medicare will not make separate payment for the clotting factor furnishing fee for J7197.

Additional Information

You can find more information about the blood clotting furnishing factor by going to CR 6673, located at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1829CP.pdf> on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website.

If you have any questions, please contact your carrier, FI, 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.

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