Medicare Learning Network
MLN Matters®
CMS
Information for Medicare Fee-For-Service Health Care Professionals

News Flash – The Medicare Learning Network® (MLN) has released MLN Matters® Article MM7133 to inform providers that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will cover counseling services to prevent tobacco use for outpatient and hospitalized beneficiaries. Effective for claims with dates of service on and after August 25, 2010, CMS will cover tobacco cessation counseling for outpatient and hospitalized Medicare beneficiaries 1) who use tobacco, regardless of whether they have signs or symptoms of tobacco-related disease; 2) who are competent and alert at the time that counseling is provided; and 3) whose counseling is furnished by a qualified physician or other Medicare-recognized practitioner. This article is based on Change Request (CR) 7133 and is available at http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM7133.pdf on the CMS website.

MLN Matters® Number: MM7168

Related Change Request (CR) #: 7168

Related CR Release Date: October 15, 2010

Effective Date: January 1, 2011

Related CR Transmittal #: R2068CP

Implementation Date: January 3, 2011

Note: This article was updated on December 11, 2012, to reflect current Web addresses. All other information remains unchanged.

Annual Clotting Factor Furnishing Fee Update 2011

Provider Types Affected

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

What You Need to Know

CR 7168, from which this article is taken, announces that for calendar year 2011, the clotting factor furnishing fee of $0.176 per unit is included in the published payment limit for clotting factors and will be added to the payment for a clotting factor when no payment limit for the clotting factor is published either on the on the Average Sales Price (ASP) or Not Otherwise Classified (NOC) drug. Please be sure your billing staffs are aware of this fee update.

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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.

Additional Information

The official instruction, CR 7168 issued to your carrier, FI, A/B MAC, and RHHI regarding this change may be viewed at http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R2068CP.pdf on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website.

If you have any questions, please contact your Medicare contractor 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.

News Flash - Vaccination is the Best Protection Against the Flu. This year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is encouraging everyone 6 months of age and older to get vaccinated against the seasonal flu. The risks for complications, hospitalizations and deaths from the flu are higher among individuals aged 65 years and older. Medicare pays for the seasonal flu vaccine and its administration for seniors and others with Medicare with no co-pay or deductible. And remember, vaccination is particularly important for health care workers, who may spread the flu to high risk patients. Don't forget to immunize yourself and your staff. Protect your patients. Protect your family. Protect yourself. Get Your Flu Vaccine - 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 vaccine and its administration, as well as related educational resources for health care professionals and their staff, please visit http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prevention/Immunizations/index.html on the CMS website.

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