

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



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- [“Quick Reference Information: Medicare Immunization Billing”](#), Educational Tool, ICN 006799, downloadable

MLN Matters® Number: MM8539

Related Change Request (CR) #: CR 8539

Related CR Release Date: December 13, 2013

Effective Date: April 1, 2014

Related CR Transmittal #: R2835CP

Implementation Date: April 7, 2014

Quarterly Update of HCPCS Codes Used for Home Health Consolidated Billing Enforcement

Provider Types Affected

This MLN Matters® Article is intended for providers and suppliers who submit claims to Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

Provider Action Needed

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 8539, which provides the annual update to Home Health (HH) consolidated billing effective for dates of service on or after April 1, 2014. The new codes were effective January 1, 2014, but were overlooked and a 2014 annual HH consolidated billing update was not published. The following of Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes are added to the HH consolidated billing non-routine supply code list:

- A7047 - Oral Interface Used With Respiratory Suction Pump, each;
- A6531, Gradient Compression Stocking, Below Knee, 30-40 MMHG, Each; and
- A6532, Gradient Compression Stocking, Below Knee, 40-50 MMHG, Each.

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Note that A7047 is a new HCPCS code in 2014. Codes A6531 and A6532 are existing codes added due to their similarity to code A6545, which has been subject to HH consolidated billing since 2009.

The following HCPCS codes are added to the HH consolidated billing therapy code list:

- 92521 - Evaluation of speech fluency (eg, stuttering, cluttering);
- 92522 - Evaluation of speech sound production (eg, articulation, phonological process, apraxia, dysarthria);
- 92523 - with evaluation of language comprehension and expression (eg, receptive and expressive language); and
- 92524 - Behavioral and qualitative analysis of voice and resonance.

These four new speech evaluation codes replace code 92506. Make sure that your billing staffs are aware of these changes.

Background

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) periodically updates the lists of HCPCS codes that are subject to the consolidated billing provision of the Home Health Prospective Payment System (HH PPS). With the exception of therapies performed by physicians, supplies incidental to physician services and supplies used in institutional settings, services appearing on this list that are submitted on claims to MACs will not be paid separately on dates when a beneficiary for whom such a service is being billed is in a home health episode (i.e., under a home health plan of care administered by a home health agency). Medicare will only directly reimburse the primary home health agencies that have opened such episodes during the episode periods. Therapies performed by physicians, supplies incidental to physician services and supplies used in institutional settings are not subject to HH consolidated billing.

The HH consolidated billing code lists are updated annually, to reflect the annual changes to the HCPCS code set itself. Additional updates may occur as frequently as quarterly in order to reflect the creation of temporary HCPCS codes (e.g., 'K' codes) throughout the calendar year. The new coding identified in each update describes the same services that were used to determine the applicable HH PPS payment rates. No additional services will be added by these updates; that is, new updates are required by changes to the coding system, not because the services subject to HH consolidated billing are being redefined.

Additional Information

The official instruction, CR 8539, issued to your MAC regarding this change may be viewed at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R2835CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your MAC 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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