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Information for Medicare Fee-For-Service Health Care Professionals

Related Change Request (CR) #: N/A

MLN Matters Number: SE0527

Related CR Release Date: N/A

Billing for Syringes Used in the Treatment of End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Patients

Note: This article was updated on February 26, 2013, to reflect current Web addresses. All other information remains unchanged.

Provider Types Affected

Physicians, providers, and suppliers billing carriers and intermediaries for ESRD services and supplies

Provider Action Needed

Providers billing HCPCS code A4657 for ESRD patients need to be aware of the proper use of this code when billing for syringes, especially when a pre-filled syringe is used in the administration of the drug contained in the syringe and no other syringe is used. In such instances, the supply charge associated with A4657 cannot be billed to Medicare.

Background

In some previous Change Requests (CRs) relating to ESRD, there was mention that Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code A4657 (syringe – with or without needle) was allowed for Epoetin (EPO). However, physicians, providers, and suppliers should note that pre-filled syringes with medications used to administer the drug to an ESRD patient should not be billed with HCPCS code A4657 to Medicare.

Also note that HCPCS code A4657 (syringe – with or without needle) should be billed only when an actual syringe is taken from the provider's supplies and used to administer the drug. Syringes that are pre-filled with medications should not require the use of another syringe to administer the medication.

When a drug is supplied in a pre-filled syringe (and no other syringe is used in the administration of the drug contained in the syringe) then the supply charge associated with HCPCS code A4657 cannot be billed to Medicare.

Only when a new syringe is used in the administration of the drug should HCPCS code A4657 be used.

Note that this special edition article relates to billing for syringes used in the treatment of ESRD patients.

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Additional Information

If you have any questions, please contact your carrier/intermediary 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 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website.

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