

# Medicare Claims Processing Manual

## Chapter 8 - Outpatient ESRD Hospital, Independent Facility, and Physician/Supplier Claims

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*(Rev. 31, 11-21-03)*

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## **10 - General Description of ESRD Payment**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

**PRM-1-2702, RDF-206**

See the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 11, for a general description of coverage policies relating to the ESRD benefit.

ESRD benefits may be paid in several ways at several sites, either in a hospital setting, an independent facility or at home. Depending on the location or the type of dialysis performed, rates may differ. ESRD facilities are paid at a composite rate and for beneficiaries dialyzing at home benefits may be paid under a composite rate (Method I) or as a series of separately billable services (Method II). Home dialysis patients choose between the two methods.

Renal dialysis facilities develop a unit charge for the range of services normally provided, taking into account variations among patients (complicated and uncomplicated situations) since it is the overall dialysis service that is covered. Any auxiliary service that cannot be included in the single unit charge for dialysis services as an integral part of a maintenance dialysis must be includable under another specific coverage provision of the Medicare law, or be denied. For example, the Medicare law excludes from coverage out of hospital drugs except when specified conditions are met with respect to the physician's involvement. Furthermore, when the conditions are met, the drug and injection charges must be billed to the carrier by the physician. Medicare benefits are secondary, during a coordination period, to benefits payable under a Group Health Plan (GHP) in the case of individuals entitled to benefits on the basis of ESRD. See the Medicare Secondary Payer (MSP) Manual, Chapter 2, for further information on the coordination period and when Medicare would pay secondary to GHP insurance.

### **10.1 - General Description of ESRD Facility Composite Rates**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

**PRM-1-2702, A3-3166, RDF-245, RDF-245.2**

The composite rate payment system is a prospective, incentive system for the payment of outpatient maintenance dialysis services to Medicare beneficiaries. All maintenance dialysis treatments furnished to Medicare beneficiaries in an approved end stage renal disease (ESRD) facility are covered by this system. The composite rate system also is used to determine payment for home dialysis services for beneficiaries who select Method I for home dialysis payments. See [§70](#) for a description of Method I and Method II for home dialysis.

There are two base composite rates: one for hospital-based ESRD facilities and a separate lower rate for independent facilities. Each of these base rates is composed of a labor and a nonlabor portion. To determine a facility's actual payment rate, the labor portion of the appropriate base rate is first adjusted by an area wage index and then added to the nonlabor portion. (See [§30](#) for the base composite payment rate.)

The facility's composite rate is a comprehensive payment for all modes of in-facility dialysis, hemofiltration, and home dialysis except for bad debts, physicians' patient care

services, and certain laboratory services and drugs that are separately billable. This payment is subject to the normal Part B deductible and coinsurance requirements and it must be accepted as payment in full for all items and services covered by the composite rate. The program's portion of the payment and the portion for which the beneficiary is liable are both based on the composite rate, regardless of the facility's charge schedule.

Under the composite rate payment system, the patient's ESRD facility must furnish all of the necessary dialysis services, equipment, and supplies. (Beneficiaries dialyzing at home may elect to be excluded from the composite rate payment system and deal directly with a supplier per [§90](#).) If the facility fails to furnish (either directly or under arrangements) any part of the items and services covered under the rate, then the facility cannot be paid any amount for the part of the items and services that it furnishes. Therefore, if the intermediary (FI) determines that the facility has not furnished all of the items and services covered under the composite rate, the FI does not reimburse the facility any amount for the incomplete dialysis treatments.

Services that are considered included in the composite rate are described in the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 11.

## **10.2 - Uncompleted Treatments**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

### **PRM-1-2702.1**

If a dialysis treatment is started, i.e., a patient is connected to the machine and a dialyzer and blood lines are used, but the treatment is not completed for some unforeseen, but valid reason, e.g., a medical emergency when the patient must be rushed to an emergency room, the facility is paid based on the full composite rate. This is a rare occurrence and must be fully documented to the FI's satisfaction.

## **10.3 - No-Shows**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

### **PRM-1-2702.1**

If a facility sets up in preparation for a dialysis treatment, but the treatment is never started, e.g., the patient never arrives, no payment is made. In this case, no service has been furnished to a Medicare beneficiary even though staff time and supplies may have been used. Furthermore, the facility may not bill the patient or the patient's private insurance for these services. This is because the program is already paying the cost of pre-dialysis services through the facility's per treatment composite rate. In setting that rate, CMS has included the salaries of facility personnel and the cost of supplies used for furnishing pre-dialysis services.

Therefore, these costs (e.g., salaries for staff time, overhead, supply costs) are included in the facility's costs and reported on its cost report, and they are included in the allowable costs used to set future reimbursement rates under the composite rate system for ESRD facilities. However, these costs may not be used as the basis for a facility to request a reimbursement exception to its composite rate, nor may they be reimbursed as Medicare bad debts.

## **10.4 - Deductible and Coinsurance**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

### **RDF-112, RDF-114**

The beneficiary is responsible for any unmet deductible and for coinsurance. For services in independent facilities and hospitals the coinsurance is based on the composite rate, or other payment rate for services paid in addition to the composite rate, except for Erythropoietin (EPO) where coinsurance is based on the payment rate.

## **10.5 - Outpatient Hospital Services Which Become Inpatient Hospital Services**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

### **PRM-1-2702.1.C**

When an individual is furnished outpatient hospital services and is thereafter admitted as an inpatient of the same hospital due to renal failure - within 24 hours for non PPS hospitals and within 72 hours for PPS hospitals - the outpatient hospital services furnished are treated as inpatient services unless the patient does not have Part A coverage. Charges are reported on Form CMS-1450. The day on which the patient is formally admitted as an inpatient is counted as the first inpatient day. The composite rate is not paid.

## **10.6 - Amount of Payment**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

### **PRM-1-2706.1.E**

After the beneficiary's Part B deductible is met, FIs pay 80 percent of the facility composite payment rate for each in-facility outpatient maintenance dialysis treatment and 780 percent of this same amount for all home dialysis patients who elect to have their dialysis care reimbursed under Method I. (See the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 11.

## **10.7 - ESRD Services Not Provided Within the United States**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

### **RDF-221**

Services (except for certain inpatient hospital services and related physicians and ambulance services in specified situations) that are not provided within the United States are not covered. United States includes the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa. See Chapter 1 for additional information concerning specified situations that may be covered, billing and payment procedures and jurisdiction for payment.

## **10.8 - Transportation Services**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

### **RDF-207.4**

In general, transportation services to obtain ESRD services are not covered. However, see the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 10, for coverage of ambulance services to renal dialysis facilities located on hospital premises and for coverage of ambulance services to nonhospital based dialysis facilities. Billing and payment instructions are provided in Chapter 15 of this manual.

## ***10.9 – Dialysis Provider Number Series***

***(Rev. 31, 11-21-03)***

***There are multiple facilities that provide dialysis services to ESRD beneficiaries. To ensure that provider data is correct facilities are required to use a Provider Number based on facility type issued by CMS.***

***The Provider Series Number series for Dialysis Providers are as follows:***

***2300-2499      Chronic Renal Dialysis Facilities (Hospital – Based)***

***2500-2899      Non – Hospital Renal Facilities***

***2900-2999      Independent Special Purpose Renal Dialysis Facility***

***3000-3399      Children’s Hospitals (Excluded from PPS)***

***3500-3699      Renal Disease Treatment Centers (Hospital Satellites)***

***3700-3799      Hospital Based Special Purpose Renal Dialysis Facilities***

***All facilities should use their appropriately assigned provider numbers on the 72x bill. In the event that a facility changes from one type to another the provider number must reflect the facility’s present provider type.***

***Listings of the Provider Series Numbers may be found in the “National Listing of Medicare Providers Furnishing Kidney Dialysis and Transplant Services”. Two websites provide this information: <http://cms.hhs.gov/esrd/8.asp> and <http://cms.hhs.gov/esrd/8e.pdf>.***

## **20 - Definitions Related to Calculating Composite Rate**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

See Chapter 11 of the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual for definitions relating to ESRD and the composite rate.

## **30 - Determination and Publication of Composite Rate**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

### **30.1 - Publication of Composite Rates**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

#### **PRM-1-2706.1, PRM-1-2704, PRM-1-2706, 42 CFR 413.172**

The composite rate regulations require CMS to publish composite payment rates in a “Federal Register” notice when CMS incorporates new cost data or wage index. These rates are updated using new program data or revising the payment methodology. Each base rate consists of a labor portion and a nonlabor portion for both hospital and independent renal facilities. When the composite payment rates are updated, a listing of the new composite payment rates is published. These rates are updated and published as needed and are used when issuing a composite payment rate to a new facility or an existing facility.

The CMS notifies FIs when new composite payment rates are issued. An FI, before the effective date of new composite payment rates, is responsible for notifying each ESRD facility of its composite payment rate in writing. At the same time, the FI sends a copy of the notification to CMS Central Office at the following address:

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Center for Medicare Management  
Chronic Care Policy Group  
Room: C5-05-27  
7500 Security Boulevard,  
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

The FI must notify the facility of its payment rate even if the facility’s payment rate (i.e. the composite cap of \$144.59) does not change. Published composite payment rates stay in effect until CMS announces new payment rates. Approved exception payment rates also stay in effect until new payment rates are published, unless otherwise specified by CMS. The issuing of new payment rates includes an effective date for these rates, and a date all exception requests must be received by FIs to meet requirements of §2720.2 in the Medicare Provider Reimbursement Manual (PRM), Part I. The procedures for determining an individual facility’s payment rates are in PRM, Part I, §2706.1.

### **30.2 - Determining Individual Facility Composite Rate**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

#### **PRM-1-2706.1**

To determine a facility’s composite rate payment, use the following procedures:

#### **A - Determine Whether Facility Is Classified as Hospital-Based or Independent Facility**

To receive the higher hospital composite rate payment, a facility must be approved by an RO as hospital-based. The RO approves a facility as hospital-based, if it determines that the requirements are met. If these requirements are met, the RO assigns a hospital or

hospital-based satellite identification number. If the RO determines that the requirements are not met, it may approve the facility as independent and assign an identification number in the 2000 series. Intermediaries and facilities may assume that existing classifications are proper unless they are changed under the usual annual survey or, at some other time, at the special request of the facility or CMS.

### **B - Determine Whether Facility Is Under Initial Method (IM) of Payment for Physician's Services**

Very few facilities, if any, are under the IM. However, if a facility is, add the IM add-on amount to the labor portion of the base composite rate before applying the facility's wage index in calculating the facility's composite rate. (See §2715 of PRM, Part 1 for the IM.)

### **C - Determine Facility's Wage Index**

#### **1. General**

Each facility is classified as either urban or rural. Urban facilities use the wage index for the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) in which the facility is located and rural facilities use the rural wage index. The ESRD composite rate payment system utilizes its own wage index that is different from the hospital PPS systems wage index.

#### **2. Application of Wage Index to Hospital-Based Satellite**

In some instances, a facility, which is assigned a hospital-based satellite identification number, is located in a different geographical area than the main hospital complex. As a result of its location, the satellite facility is assigned a wage index that is different from the wage index assigned to the hospital. For example, the hospital is classified as urban and uses the wage index for the MSA in which the facility is located, while the hospital-based satellite is classified as rural and uses the rural wage index for that State. The wage index applicable to the hospital also applies to the satellite if the actual wage scales are identical in both the hospital and satellite facility. The provider must furnish auditable financial data to the FI who demonstrates that the wage scales are identical; e.g., the wages and benefits paid to the employees of the satellite are identical to the wages and benefits paid to the employees of the hospital. The FI reviews the facility's documentation to verify that the wage index for the hospital is also appropriate for the satellite facility, and then submits the notification of the facility's revised rate to CMS. If the wage scales are not identical, the wage indexes are based on each facility's geographical location.

## **30.3 - Transition Period**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

### **PRM-1-2705**

At the time that the composite payment rates were established, the wage index was modified on a transition period basis pending possible development of an alternative wage index based on ESRD-specific salary data. This action was taken because of concern over whether the current wage index is completely valid for ESRD outpatient facilities. Since there is no specific ESRD wage index, the transition continues as follows:

There is a wage index floor of .9; that is, during the transition period, no composite rate is computed with a wage index of less than .9.

### **30.4 - Record-Keeping and Reporting Requirements Under Composite Rate System**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

#### **PRM-1-2717**

Each approved ESRD facility must keep adequate records and submit the CMS-approved cost report. Independent facilities are required to submit a completed Form CMS-265 in accordance with CMS Pub. 15-II, Chapter 9. Hospital-based facilities are required to complete Form CMS-2552, the hospital cost report, in accordance with CMS Pub. 15-II. Failure to submit a timely cost report could result in suspending composite rate payments or revocation of the facility's approval to participate in the program.

Except as noted, the Medicare reasonable cost principles apply in the determination and reporting of the allowable cost incurred by a facility in furnishing outpatient dialysis treatments (in-facility and home).

Reasonable costs under the composite rate do not include:

- Return on equity capital for proprietary providers;
- Reimbursement of organ procurement agencies (OPAs) and histocompatibility laboratories; and
- The cost of providing paid aides for home dialysis patients.

### **30.5 - Facility Preparation and Intermediary Review of Cost Reports**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

#### **PRM-1-2728**

ESRD facilities use Form CMS-265 cost report for independent facilities. Form CMS-2552, Supplemental Worksheets I, is used for hospital-based renal facilities.

#### **A - Guidelines for Intermediaries in Processing Cost Reports**

It is necessary for the FI to perform a limited review of the cost reports prior to submittal to CMS, focusing on the accuracy and completion of the cost reporting forms. Accurate cost data is required since it is used to establish a computerized renal cost database. The compiled renal cost data is utilized for accumulation of data for overall program evaluation, review of exception requests to the composite rate and for the determination of future composite rates. The FI:

1. Reviews all the information submitted, according to cost reporting instructions contained in CMS Pub. 15-II, for Form CMS-2552 and Form CMS-265 to ensure that all the applicable items have been properly completed. Annotates those items not applicable. Completes all applicable cost reporting forms.
2. Determines that the facilities have utilized the Medicare principles of reimbursement to ensure that only reasonable and allowable costs for furnishing

covered services to Medicare beneficiaries are reimbursed. (See PRM §2718 for exceptions to Medicare ESRD costs.)

3. Verifies that the cost for the varying modality of treatments, i.e., peritoneal, hemodialysis, etc., listed on one schedule is also listed on the corresponding schedule on the appropriate lines. ESRD facilities are to report hemofiltration cost and treatment data under the hemodialysis modality.
4. Performs a clerical review by cross-footing and footing cost item columns.

The following procedures outline the type of data that must accompany the appropriate cost reporting forms submitted to CMS for each ESRD facility.

## **B - Cost Reports**

For cost reporting periods beginning on or after October 1, 1987, the ESRD facility cost reports are electronically transmitted to CMS. The hospital-based facilities utilize the Hospital Cost Report Information System (HCRIS) and the independent facilities use the Independent Renal Dialysis Information System (IRDIS). In both HCRIS and IRDIS, edits are included for both accuracy and timeliness under the Contractor Performance Evaluation (CPE). This is a continuation of the CPE review previously performed by CMS.

**Hospital-Based ESRD Facilities** - A hospital must submit the following worksheets from the cost report Form CMS-2552: Supplemental Worksheets S-5, I-2 (Parts I and II), I-3, and I-4.

The cost of the approved drug epoetin (EPO) furnished to ESRD patients must be listed on Supplemental Worksheet I-2, Parts I and II, line 31. Do not transfer the total cost of furnishing EPO on these supplemental worksheets to Supplemental Worksheet I-3, column 2.

**Independent ESRD Facilities** - An independent facility must submit the entire cost report Form CMS-265. The facility must continue to submit a copy of its audited financial statement (if available) or unaudited for the accounting period as specified to its servicing FI.

The cost of the approved drug epoetin (EPO) furnished to ESRD patients must be listed on Schedule A, line 25 and Schedules B and B-1, line 18. Do not transfer the total cost of furnishing EPO on these schedules to Worksheet C, column 2.

## **C - Submission of Cost Reports**

An ESRD facility must submit an annual cost report (Form CMS-265) or Supplemental Worksheets (Form CMS-2552, Worksheets I-1, 2, and 3) and other worksheets as stated.

Cost reports are due on or before the last day of the third month following the close of the period covered by the report. Any ESRD facility failing to submit the cost reporting form to the FI within the specified time periods is subject to a suspension of its Medicare reimbursement.

All FIs must submit the unaudited cost report for each renal dialysis facility to CMS after completion of the FI's review. The independent facility's cost report is primarily filed as unaudited, unless CMS requests an audit of the cost report to substantiate a facility's

exception request. The unaudited cost report for each individual ESRD facility must be provided to CMS within 180 days of the facility's fiscal year end or 60 days after FI receipt, whichever is later.

In order for CMS to maintain accurate cost data in the renal dialysis cost system, the FI after completion of final settlement (Notice of Provider Reimbursement has been issued), submits a copy of the finalized hospital-based cost report with all adjustments. This submission must be sent to CMS within 30 days after issuance of the Notice of Final Settlement. If the final settlement is made with no changes to the unaudited cost report for the renal dialysis department (as previously sent to CMS), the FI must notify CMS that there are no changes. Subsequent submissions are required each time a settled cost report is reopened and the renal dialysis costs are adjusted. These submissions are due within 30 days after the date of each final settlement.

The ESRD facility must submit Forms CMS-265 and CMS-2552, Supplemental Worksheets Is to its FI which, in turn, must review and electronically transmit the cost reporting forms to CMS.

Incomplete cost reporting forms are returned to the FI for transmittal to the facility for completion.

### **30.6 - Issuance of Notice of Program Reimbursement**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

#### **PRM-1-2719**

Upon completion of the desk review and/or audit of the ESRD facility's cost report, the FI issues a notice of program reimbursement (NPR). The NPR is prepared using the guidelines in §2906 (PRM, Part 1). An NPR issued for an ESRD facility must include reimbursement for bad debts. All adjustments made by the FI need to be explained in the NPR. The provider appeal rights are explained in the NPR. In addition, to protect the facility's appeal rights under Subpart R, an NPR is issued even though the provider is not claiming reimbursement, or the FI has not changed the requested amount.

A separate NPR need not be issued for a hospital-based ESRD facility. Instead, the facility's activities are combined with the other hospital activities on a single NPR.

### **40 - Processing Requests for Composite Rate Exception**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

#### **PRM-1-2720**

A hospital-based or independent renal dialysis facility may request CMS to approve an exception to the composite payment rate and set a higher payment rate, if the facility has an estimated allowable cost per treatment higher than its composite rate, and if the higher costs relate to the exception criteria described below. The costs in excess of the composite rate must be attributable to items and services provided to Medicare patients for maintenance dialysis, whether furnished at home or in a hospital-based or independent facility. All of the facility's costs with respect to all modes of outpatient maintenance dialysis (exclusive of self-dialysis training costs), for both in-facility and home dialysis patients are considered in an exception request for any mode of dialysis.

For example, if the facility's peritoneal dialysis cost per treatment exceeds its composite rate payment, no exception is granted if the facility's total maintenance dialysis revenues exceed its total maintenance dialysis costs. In considering exception requests for self-dialysis training, only the costs relating to self-dialysis training are considered. The provisions for filing an exception under the composite rate apply for services furnished on or after August 1, 1983.

Criteria for processing composite rate exception requests are in Provider Reimbursement Manual Part I, §§2720.1 - 2726.2

## **50 - In-Facility Dialysis Bill Processing Procedures**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

### **A3-3644, CWF documentation, RDF-207.1**

General instructions for billing via UB-92 or ANSI X12N formats are in Chapter 25. The following instructions apply to facility reporting of ESRD services and to FI processing of in-facility dialysis claims.

The shared system checks the Common Working File (CWF) to determine if there is Employer Group Health Plan (EGHP) insurance. Where the beneficiary is covered under the EGHP insurance, see the Medicare Secondary Payer Manual.

### **50.1 - Laboratory Services Included in the Composite Rate**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

#### **RDF-207.1, PM A-03-33**

The costs of certain ESRD laboratory services performed by either the ESRD facility or an independent laboratory are included in the composite rate calculations. Therefore, payment for all of these tests is included in the composite rate and may NOT be billed separately to the Medicare program. For an exception, see the discussion of ESRD related laboratory tests in Chapter 16 of this manual.

These tests are either performed by the facility, in which case payment is included in the composite rate, or by an outside laboratory for the facility, in which case the laboratory bills the facility, which is paid only under the composite rate. These laboratory tests and frequencies are listed below:

#### **A - Hemodialysis, Intermittent Peritoneal Dialysis and Continuous Cycling Peritoneal Dialysis – Included in the composite rate.**

| <b>Per Treatment</b> | <b>Weekly</b>                                        | <b>Monthly</b>       |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Hematocrit (HCT)     | Prothrombin                                          | Serum Calcium        |
| Clotting Time        | Serum Creatinine                                     | Serum Chloride       |
| Hemoglobin (HGB)     | Blood Urea Nitrogen (BUN)<br>(Weekly or 13 per qtr.) | Total Protein        |
|                      |                                                      | Complete Blood Count |

Serum Bicarbonate  
Serum Phosphorus  
Serum Potassium  
Serum Albumin  
Alkaline Phosphatase  
Serum Glutaminic  
Oxaloacetic  
Lactic Dehydrogenase  
AST

**B - Continuous Ambulatory Peritoneal Dialysis – Included in the composite rate monthly**

Blood Urea Nitrogen  
CO2  
Serum Creatinine  
Sodium  
Serum Calcium  
Magnesium  
Serum Phosphorus  
Serum Potassium  
Total Protein  
Serum Albumin  
Alkaline Phosphatase  
Lactic Dehydrogenase  
AST  
Serum Glutaminic Oxaloacetic Transaminase  
Hematocrit  
Hemoglobin  
Dialysis Protein

## **50.2 - Drugs and Biologicals Included in the Composite Rate**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

### **A3-3168.A**

Certain drugs used in the dialysis procedure are covered under the facility's composite rate and may not be billed separately. Drugs that are used as a substitute for any of these items or are used to accomplish the same effect are also included in the composite rate. The administration; of these items (both staff time and supplies) is covered under the composite rate and may not be billed separately. Self-administered items are not covered under the Medicare program with the exception of EPO. Listed below are the drugs included in the composite rate:

|                 |                |                   |                   |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Antiarrhythmics | Antihistamines | Antihypertensives | Dextrose          |
| Glucose         | Heparin        | Mannitol          | Pressor drugs     |
| Protamine       | Saline         | Local Anesthetics | Heparin antidotes |

Antibiotics (when used at home by a patient to treat an infection of the catheter site or peritonitis associated with peritoneal dialysis)

## **50.3 - Required Information for In-Facility Claims Paid Under the Composite Rate**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

### **RDF-320**

#### **Form Locator (FL) 4 - Type of Bill Code Structure**

Acceptable codes for Medicare are:

721 - Admit Through Discharge Claim - This code is used for a bill encompassing an entire course of outpatient treatment for which the provider expects payment from the payer.

722 - Interim - First Claim - This code is used for the first of an expected series of payment bills for the same course of treatment.

723 - Interim - Continuing Claim - This code is used when a payment bill for the same course of treatment is submitted and further bills are expected to be submitted later.

724 - Interim - Last Claim - This code is used for a payment bill which is the last of a series for this course of treatment. The "Through" date of this bill (FL 6) is the discharge date for this course of treatment.

727 - Replacement of Prior Claim - This code is used when the provider wants to correct (other than late charges) a previously submitted bill. The previously submitted bill needs to be resubmitted in its entirety, changing only the items that need correction. This is the code used for the corrected or "new" bill.

728 - Void/Cancel of a Prior Claim - This code indicates this bill is a cancel-only adjustment of an incorrect bill previously submitted. Cancel-only adjustments should be used only in cases of incorrect provider identification numbers, incorrect HICNs, duplicate payments and some OIG recoveries. For incorrect provider numbers or HICNs, a corrected bill is also submitted using a code 721.

**FL 6 - Statement Covers Period (From-Through) - Hospital-based and independent renal dialysis facilities:**

Show the dates during which the patient's care was under the supervision of the facility. Exclude dates when the patient's care was under the supervision of another entity (e.g., hospital, another ESRD facility, SNF).

**FLs 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30 - Condition Codes**

Hospital-based and independent renal facilities complete these items. Note that one of the codes 71-76 is applicable for every bill. Special Program Indicator codes A0-A9 are not required.

Condition Code Structure (only codes affecting Medicare payment/processing are shown).

02 - Condition is Employment Related - Providers enter this code if the patient alleges that the medical condition causing this episode of care is due to environment/events resulting from employment.

04 - Patient is HMO Enrollee - Providers enter this code to indicate the patient is a member of an HMO.

71 - Full Care in Unit - Providers enter this code to indicate the billing is for a patient who received staff-assisted dialysis services in a hospital or renal dialysis facility.

72 - Self-Care in Unit - Providers enter this code to indicate the billing is for a patient who managed his own dialysis in a hospital or renal dialysis facility.

73 - Self-Care in Training - Providers enter this code to indicate the billing is for special dialysis services where a patient and his/her helper (if necessary) were learning to perform dialysis.

76 - Back-up In-facility Dialysis - Providers enter this code to indicate the billing is for a home dialysis patient who received back-up dialysis in a facility.

**FLs 32, 33, 34 and 35 - Occurrence Codes and Dates**

Codes(s) and associated date(s) defining specific events(s) relating to this billing period are shown. Event codes are two alpha-numeric digits, and dates are shown as six numeric digits (MM-DD-YY). When occurrence codes 01-04 and 24 are entered, make sure the entry includes the appropriate value code in FLs 39-41, if there is another payer involved.

Fields 32A-35A must be completed before fields 32B-35B are used.

Occurrence and occurrence span codes are mutually exclusive. Occurrence codes have values from 01 through 69 and A0 through L9. Occurrence span codes have values from 70 through 99 and M0 through Z9.

24 - Date Insurance Denied - Code indicates the date of receipt of a denial of coverage by a higher priority payer.

33 - First Day of Medicare Coordination Period for ESRD Beneficiaries Covered by an EGHP - Code indicates the first day of the Medicare coordination period during which Medicare benefits are payable under an EGHP. This is required only for ESRD beneficiaries.

**FL 36 - Occurrence Span Code and Dates**

Code(s) and associated beginning and ending dates(s) defining a specific event relating to this billing period are shown. Event codes are two alpha-numeric digits and dates are shown numerically as MM-DD-YY.

74 - Noncovered Level of Care - This code is used for repetitive Part B services to show a period of inpatient hospital care or of outpatient surgery during the billing period.

**FL 37 – Internal Control Number (ICN) Document Control Number (DCN)**

Required for all provider types on adjustment requests. (Bill Type/FL=XX7). All providers requesting an adjustment to a previous processed claim insert the ICN/DCN of the claims to be adjusted. Payer A's ICN/DCN should be shown for line A of FL 37.

**FLs 39, 40, and 41 - Value Codes and Amounts**

Code(s) and related dollar amount(s) identify monetary data that are necessary for the processing of this claim. The codes are two alphanumeric digits and each value allows up to nine numeric digits (0000000.00). Negative amounts are not allowed, except in FL 41. Whole numbers or non-dollar amounts are right justified to the left of the dollars and cents delimiter. Some values are reported as cents, so refer to specific codes for instructions. If more than one value code is shown for a billing period, show the codes in ascending alphanumeric sequence. There are four lines of data, line "A" through line "D." FLs 39A through 41A are used before FLs 39B through 41B (i.e., the first line is used up before the second line is used and so on).

Value Code Structure (Only codes used to bill Medicare are shown.):

06 - Medicare Blood Deductible - Code indicates the amount the patient paid for unreplaced deductible blood.

13 - ESRD Beneficiary in the 30- Month Coordination Period With an EGHP - Code indicates that the amount shown is that portion of a higher priority EGHP payment on behalf of an ESRD beneficiary that applies to covered Medicare charges on this bill. If the provider enters six zeros (0000.00) in the amount field, it is claiming a conditional payment because the EGHP has denied coverage or there has been a substantial delay in its payment. Where the provider received no payment or a reduced payment because of failure to file a proper claim, this is the amount that would have been payable had it filed a proper claim.

37 - Pints of Blood Furnished - Code indicates the total number of pints of blood or units of packed red cells furnished, whether or not replaced. Blood is reported only in terms of complete pints rounded upwards, e.g., 1 1/4 pints is shown as 2 pints. This entry serves as a basis for counting pints towards the blood deductible. Hospital-based and independent renal facilities must complete this item.

38 - Blood Deductible Pints - Code indicates the number of un-replaced deductible pints of blood supplied. If all deductible pints furnished have been replaced, no entry is made. Hospital-based and independent renal facilities must complete this item.

39 - Pints of Blood Replaced - Code indicates the total number of pints of blood donated on the patient's behalf. Where one pint is donated, one pint is replaced. If arrangements have been made for replacement, pints are shown as replaced. Where the provider charges only for the blood processing and administration, i.e., it does not charge a "replacement deposit fee" for un-replaced pints, the blood is considered replaced for purposes of this item. In such cases, all blood charges are shown under the 039x revenue code series, Blood Administration. Hospital-based and independent renal facilities must complete this item.

44 - Amount Provider Agreed To Accept From Primary Payer When This Amount is Less Than Charges But Higher than Payment Received - Code indicates the amount shown is the amount the provider was obligated or required to accept from a primary payer as payment in full when that amount is less than the charges but higher than amount actually received. A Medicare secondary payment is due.

47 - Any Liability Insurance - Code indicates amount shown is that portion from a higher priority liability insurance made on behalf of a Medicare beneficiary that the provider is applying to Medicare covered services on this bill. If six zeros (0000.00) are entered in the amount field, the provider is claiming conditional payment because there has been substantial delay in the other payer's payment.

48 - Hemoglobin Reading - Code indicates the hemoglobin reading taken before the last administration of Erythropoietin (EPO) during this billing cycle. This is usually reported in three positions with a decimal. Use the right of the delimiter for the third digit.

49 - Hematocrit Reading - Code indicates the hematocrit reading taken before the last administration of EPO during this billing cycle. This is usually reported in two positions (a percentage) to the left of the dollar/cents delimiter. If the reading is provided with a decimal, use the position to the right of the delimiter for the third digit.

67 - Peritoneal Dialysis - The number of hours of peritoneal dialysis provided during the billing period. Count only the hours spent in the home. Exclude travel time. Report amount in whole units right-justified to the left of the dollar/cents delimiter. (Round to the nearest whole hour.)

68 - Erythropoietin Units - Code indicates the number of units of administered EPO relating to the billing period and reported in whole units to the left of the dollar/cents delimiter. NOTE: The total amount of EPO injected during the billing period is reported. If there were 12 doses injected, the sum of the units administered for the 12 doses is reported as the value to the left of the dollar/cents delimiter.

71 - Funding of ESRD Networks - Code indicates the amount of Medicare payment reduction to help fund the ESRD networks. This amount is calculated by the FI and forwarded to CWF. (See [§120](#) for discussion of ESRD networks).

## FL 42 - Revenue Codes

The revenue code for the appropriate treatment modality under the composite rate is billed (e.g., 0821 for hemodialysis). Services included in the composite rate and related charges must not be shown on the bill separately. Hospitals must maintain a log of these charges in their records for cost apportionment purposes.

Services which are provided but which are not included in the composite rate may be billed as described in sections that address those specific services.

082X - Hemodialysis - Outpatient or Home Dialysis - A waste removal process performed in an outpatient or home setting, necessary when the body's own kidneys have failed. Waste is removed directly from the blood. Detailed revenue coding is required. Therefore, services may not be summed at the zero level.

|                                          |                   |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 0 - General Classification               | HEMO/OP OR HOME   |
| 1 - Hemodialysis/Composite or other rate | HEMO/COMPOSITE    |
| 2 - Home Supplies                        | HEMO/HOME/SUPPL   |
| 3 - Home Equipment                       | HEMO/HOME/EQUIP   |
| 4 - Maintenance 100%                     | HEMO/HOME/100%    |
| 5 - Support Services                     | HEMO/HOME/SUPSERV |
| 9 - Other Hemodialysis Outpatient        | HEMO/HOME/OTHER   |

083X - Peritoneal Dialysis - Outpatient or Home - A waste removal process performed in an outpatient or home setting, necessary when the body's own kidneys have failed. Waste is removed indirectly by instilling a special solution into the abdomen using the peritoneal membrane as a filter.

|                                        |                       |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 0 - General Classification             | PERITONEAL/OP OR HOME |
| 1 - Peritoneal/Composite or other rate | PERTNL/COMPOSITE      |
| 2 - Home Supplies                      | PERTNL/HOME/SUPPL     |
| 3 - Home Equipment                     | PERTNL/HOME/EQUIP     |
| 4 - Maintenance 100%                   | PERTNL/HOME/100%      |
| 5 - Support Services                   | PERTNL/HOME/SUPSERV   |
| 9 -Other Peritoneal Dialysis           | PERTNL/HOME/OTHER     |

084X - Continuous Ambulatory Peritoneal Dialysis (CAPD) - Outpatient - A continuous dialysis process performed in an outpatient or home setting, which uses the patient's peritoneal membrane as a dialyzer.

|                            |                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 0 - General Classification | CAPD/OP OR HOME |
|----------------------------|-----------------|

|                                  |                   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 - CAPD/Composite or other rate | CAPD/COMPOSITE    |
| 2 - Home Supplies                | CAPD/HOME/SUPPL   |
| 3 - Home Equipment               | CAPD/HOME/EQUIP   |
| 4 - Maintenance 100%             | CAPD/HOME/100%    |
| 5 - Support Services             | CAPD/HOME/SUPSERV |
| 9 -Other CAPD Dialysis           | CAPD/HOME/OTHER   |

085X - Continuous Cycling Peritoneal Dialysis (CCPD) - Outpatient. - A continuous dialysis process performed in an outpatient or home setting, which uses the patient's peritoneal membrane as a dialyzer.

|                                  |                   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 0 - General Classification       | CCPD/OP OR HOME   |
| 1 - CCPD/Composite or other rate | CCPD/COMPOSITE    |
| 2 - Home Supplies                | CCPD/HOME/SUPPL   |
| 3 - Home Equipment               | CCPD/HOME/EQUIP   |
| 4 - Maintenance 100%             | CCPD/HOME/100%    |
| 5 - Support Services             | CCPD/HOME/SUPSERV |
| 9 -Other CCPD Dialysis           | CCPD/HOME/OTHER   |

#### **FL 44 - HCPCS/Rates**

When a revenue code in the 083x series (peritoneal dialysis) is placed in FL 42, an entry must also appear in FL 44. This entry identifies the duration (number of hours) of the peritoneal treatments. Peritoneal dialysis is usually done in sessions of 10-24 hours duration 7 days a week, and each session is billed and paid as one treatment. Providers enter the number of hours for each session in Value Code 67. They also enter the number of sessions (treatments) in FL 46.

Peritoneal dialysis sessions of between 20-29 hours duration is paid as 1 1/2 treatments. However, for purposes of billing, fractions or decimals are not acceptable. The number of treatments is rounded upwards, e.g., 1 1/2 treatments are equal to 2. The total number of treatments is placed in FL 46. The number of hours for each treatment is entered in FL 44 so that proper payment may be made.

Extended peritoneal dialysis sessions of 30 hours or more, given once a week, in place of 2 or 3 sessions of shorter duration are billed and paid as three treatments. Providers enter the number of hours for each session in FL 44. They also enter the number of treatments in FL 46.

Modifiers are required for ESRD Billing for Adequacy of Hemodialysis. ESRD facilities should report information about the range of urea reduction ratio (URR) values through the use of a G modifier attached to the CPT code 90999 in FL 44 of the UB-92. The CPT

code and modifier are required for dialysis reported through UB-92 revenue codes 0820, 0821, and 0829.

- G1 Most recent URR of less than 60%
- G2 Most recent URR of 60% to 64%
- G3 Most recent URR of 65% to 69.9%
- G4 Most recent URR of 70% to 74.9%
- G5 Most recent URR of 75% or greater
- G6 ERSD patient for whom less than seven dialysis sessions have been provided in a month

**FL 46 - Units of Service**

Hospital-based and independent renal facilities must complete this item. The entries quantify services by revenue category, e.g., number of dialysis treatments. Units are defined as follows:

0634 - Erythropoietin (EPO) - Administrations, i.e., the number of times an injection of less than 10,000 units of EPO was administered.

0635 - Erythropoietin (EPO) - Administrations, i.e., the number of times an injection of 10,000 units or more of EPO was administered.

082X - (Hemodialysis) - Sessions

083X - (Peritoneal) - Sessions

084X - (CAPD) - Days covered by the bill

085X - (CCPD) - Days covered by the bill

**FL 47 - Total Charges**

Hospital-based and independent renal facilities must complete this item. Hospital-based facilities show their customary charges that correspond to the appropriate revenue code in FL 42. They must not enter their composite or the EPO rate as their charge. Independent facilities may enter their composite and/or EPO rates.

Neither revenue codes nor charges for services included in the composite rate may be billed separately (see [§90.3](#) for a description). Hospitals must maintain a log of these charges in their records for cost apportionment purposes.

Services which are provided but which are not included in the composite rate may be billed as described in sections that address those specific services.

The last revenue code entered in FL 42 as 0001 represents the total of all charges billed.

### **50.3.1 - Submitting Corrected Bills**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

#### **RDF-320.1**

Claimants must submit a corrected Form CMS-1450 if any of the following apply to a previously processed claim:

- A change in provider number;
- A change in coinsurance involves an amount greater than \$1.99; or
- A change in visits (decrease or increase).

Claimants must follow procedures for submitting corrected bills in Chapter 26.

### **50.4 - Non-Required Items on the Form CMS-1450 for ESRD Bills**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

#### **A3-3644.2**

The following items are not required on the Form CMS-1450 for ESRD bills except for inpatient bills.

#### **FL 4 - Type of Bill Code Structure**

725 - Late Charge Only- This code is used only for outpatient claims. Additional services billed from ESRD facilities must be submitted as an adjustment to the original paid claim and not submitted as late charge bills. Late charge bills are not accepted for Medicare inpatient claims.

#### **FL 7 - Covered Days.**

#### **FL 8 - Noncovered Days**

#### **FL 9 - Coinsurance days.**

#### **FL 10 - Lifetime Reserve Days**

#### **FL 17 - Admission Date**

#### **FL 19 - Type of Admission**

#### **FL 20 - Source of Admission.**

#### **FL 22 - Patient Status**

#### **FL 34 - Untitled.**

### **50.5 - IPD in the Facility**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

#### **A3-3112.6**

Payment for IPD in the facility is subject to the same payment rules as hemodialysis. IPD in the facility is usually done in sessions of 10-12 hours duration three times a week and is paid at the same level as hemodialysis treatments under the composite rate. However, sometimes IPD is done only once or twice a week in much longer sessions. IPD sessions

between 20 - 29 hours duration furnished twice a week are paid at a rate of one and one-half times the facility's usual composite rate. Extended IPD sessions of 30 hours or more, given once a week, in place of two or three sessions of shorter duration, are paid at a rate of three times the facility's usual composite rate.

## **50.6 - In-Facility Back-Up Dialysis**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

### **RDF-245.2.D**

Back-up dialysis is an in-facility dialysis treatment furnished to a home dialysis patient. Condition code 76 must appear as one entry in FLs 24-30. The facility must explain why any in-facility backup dialysis sessions (furnished on either an inpatient or outpatient basis) are furnished to home dialysis patients who are covered under the composite rate. If a backup session is furnished because of a failure to furnish any of the required items or services, then it will be covered only to the extent of a home dialysis session and reimbursed at the facility's composite rate. If the backup dialysis is furnished by an institution other than the home patient's composite rate facility, then the composite rate facility must assume financial liability for any cost or charge in excess of the facility's composite rate except where the patient is traveling away from home.

### **50.6.1 - Payment for In-Facility Maintenance Dialysis Sessions Furnished to CAPD/CCPD Home Dialysis Patients**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

#### **A3-3644.1, 3171.1**

Although CAPD and CCPD patients are home dialysis patients, it may be necessary at times to dialyze them in-facility as a substitute. In this case, the total weekly reimbursement to the facility remains the same regardless of the type and frequency of in-facility dialysis involved.

In order to furnish covered CAPD services, a facility must be a Medicare approved ESRD facility and must meet additional standards established by CMS.

However, in rare instances an ESRD patient may require a combination of dialysis techniques, on the same day, in order to achieve satisfactory results. In these situations, Medicare pays for both types of dialysis services furnished on the same day. Medicare FIs determine the medical necessity. In each case the FI obtains medical documentation from the facility that supports the use of back-up dialysis with another treatment modality. If a CAPD patient frequently requires back-up sessions, the FI's medical staff may request medical records to determine if this is the appropriate mode of treatment to meet medical necessity requirement for payment purposes and/or whether a different mode of treatment is more advantageous to the beneficiary.

## **50.6.2 - Payment for Hemodialysis Sessions**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

### **A3-3644.1**

Hemodialysis is typically furnished three times per week in sessions of three to five hours duration. Each hemodialysis session equals one composite rate payment. Therefore, three sessions per week is three composite rate payments. Dialysis furnished at this frequency is paid without medical justification in the ICD-9 field of the claim (FL-68-75). The justification must support the medical necessity of the service(s) being rendered.

## **50.7 - Ultrafiltration**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

### **PRM-1-2702.2**

Ultrafiltration (revenue code 0881) is a process for removing excess fluid from the blood through the dialysis membrane by means of pressure. It is not a substitute for dialysis. Ultrafiltration is used in cases where excess fluid cannot be removed easily during the regular course of hemodialysis. It is commonly done during the first hour or two of hemodialysis on patients who, for example, have refractory edema.

**Pre-dialysis Ultrafiltration** - While the need, if any, for pre-dialysis ultrafiltration varies from patient to patient, the facility's composite rate covers the full range of complicated and uncomplicated outpatient dialysis treatments. Therefore, no additional charge is recognized for pre-dialysis ultrafiltration.

**Separate Ultrafiltration** - Occasionally, medical complications require that ultrafiltration be performed at a time other than when a dialysis treatment is given, and in these cases an additional payment may be made. However, the claim must be documented in the medical record and included on the billing form in the ICD-9 field (FL-68-75) as to why the ultrafiltration could not have been performed at the time of the dialysis treatment. The FI determines the payment based on the facility's cost of furnishing the ultrafiltration, not to exceed the facility's composite rate.

## **50.8 - Training and Retraining**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

### **PRM-1-2707, 2707.1, A3-3112.6.D, HO-E212.1, HO-E212.2, HO-E212.3, HO-E212.4**

See the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 11, for coverage rules for dialysis training.

Training services and supplies that are covered under the composite rate include personnel services, dialysis supplies and parenteral items used in dialysis, written training manuals, material and laboratory tests. The facility is reimbursed an add-on amount to their composite rate and the amount is dependent on the type of dialysis. The following list represents the training reimbursement methodology:

|      |                |      |         |
|------|----------------|------|---------|
| 0821 | Composite Rate | Plus | \$20.00 |
|------|----------------|------|---------|

|      |                |      |         |
|------|----------------|------|---------|
| 0831 | Composite Rate | Plus | \$20.00 |
| 0841 | Composite Rate | Plus | \$20.00 |
| 0851 | Composite Rate | Plus | \$20.00 |

### **Training**

For intermittent peritoneal dialysis (IPD), continuous cycling peritoneal dialysis (CCPD) and hemodialysis training:

The facility's composite rate (exclusive of any approved exception amount) plus \$20 per training session, furnished up to three times per week. A facility is not reimbursed for more than three IPD or for hemodialysis training treatments in a single week, of for a total duration longer than 3 months, unless it has received an exception in accordance with [§40](#) of this chapter. A maximum of 15 CCPD training sessions are reimbursable.

For continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (CAPD):

The facility's composite rate (exclusive of any approved exception amount) plus \$12 per training session. Only one CAPD training session per day is reimbursable, up to a maximum of 15.

### **Retraining**

**A. General** - Occasionally, it is necessary to furnish additional training to an ESRD self-dialysis beneficiary after the initial training course is completed. Retraining sessions are paid under the following conditions:

- The patient changes from one mode of dialysis to another, e.g., from hemodialysis to CAPD;
- The patient's home dialysis equipment changes;
- The patient's dialysis setting changes;
- The patient's dialysis partner changes; or
- The patient's medical condition changes e.g., temporary memory loss due to stroke, physical impairment.

The patient must continue to be an appropriate patient for self-dialysis.

**B. Payment Rates** - Retraining sessions are reimbursed at the same rate as the facility's training rate.

**C. Duplicate Payments** - No composite rate payment is made for a home dialysis treatment furnished on the same day as a retraining session. In the case of a CAPD patient, the facility's equivalent CAPD daily rate is not paid on the day(s) of retraining.

**EXAMPLE:** A CAPD patient dialyzes at home Monday and Tuesday. On Wednesday he attends a retraining session at his facility. Thursday through Sunday he dialyzes at home.

The facility's composite rate is \$130 per treatment. The Part B deductible is met. For that week the facility's payment is:

80 percent of:

CAPD weekly rate =  $3 \times 130 = \$390$

CAPD daily rate =  $\$390 \div 7 = \$55.71$

CAPD training rate =  $\$130 + \$12 = \$142$

$6 \times 55.71 = \$334.26$

+ \$142

\$476.26

Therefore, for the week Monday - Sunday, payment is 80 percent  $\times \$476.26 = \$381.01$

**NOTE:** Often, services furnished to a CAPD patient who has already completed a course of training are home support services, and not retraining services. Reviewing the CAPD patient's technique and instructing him/her in any corrections or refinements in technique is a support service; and, therefore, is not covered as a retraining service.

## **50.9 - Coding for Adequacy of Hemodialysis**

(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)

**RDF-319.3, A3-3644.5, CR-1767**

### **A - General**

All hemodialysis claims must indicate the most recent Urea Reduction Ratio (URR) for the dialysis patient. Code all claims using HCPCS code 90999 along with the appropriate G modifier listed in section B.

### **B - Billing Requirements**

Claims for dialysis treatments must include the adequacy of hemodialysis data as measured by URR. Dialysis facilities must monitor the adequacy of dialysis treatments monthly for facility patients. Home hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis patients may be monitored less frequently, but not less than quarterly. If a home hemodialysis patient is not monitored during a month, the last, most recent URR for the dialysis patient must be reported.

HCPCS code 90999 (unlisted dialysis procedure, inpatient or outpatient) must be reported in field location 44 for all bill types 72X. The appropriate G-modifier in field location 44 (HCPCS/RATES) is used, for patients that received seven or more dialysis treatments in a month. Continue to report revenue codes 0820, 0821, 0825, and 0829 in field location 43.

G1 - Most recent URR of less than 60%

G2 - Most recent URR of 60% to 64.9%

G3 - Most recent URR of 65% to 69.9%

G4 - Most recent URR of 70% to 74.9%

G5 - Most recent URR of 75% or greater

For patients that have received dialysis 6 days or less in a month, facilities use the following modifier:

G6 - ESRD patient for whom less than seven dialysis sessions have been provided in a month.

For services beginning January 1, 2003, and after, if the modifier is not present, FIs must return the claim to the provider for the appropriate modifier.

The techniques to be used to draw the pre- and post-dialysis blood urea Nitrogen samples are listed in the National Kidney Foundation Dialysis Outcomes Quality Initiative Clinical Practice Guidelines for Hemodialysis Adequacy, Guideline 8, Acceptable Methods for BUN sampling, New York, National Kidney Foundation, 2000, pp.53-60.

## **60 - Separately Billable ESRD Items and Services**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

### **PRM-1-2711**

An item or service is separately billable if its cost was specifically excluded from cost data used to calculate the composite rate. This determination is not dependent on the frequency that dialysis patients require the item or service during dialysis. All claims for separately billable items/services must indicate why the items/services were medically necessary. ESRD facilities must accept the Medicare allowance as the full payment for any items and services they furnish.

### **60.1 - Lab Services**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

#### **A3-3644.1, PRM-1-2711.1, B3-4270.2, RDF-322, A3-3167.3**

See the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 11, for a description of lab services included in the composite rate.

Independent laboratories and independent dialysis facilities with the appropriate clinical laboratory certification in accordance with CLIA may be paid for ESRD clinical laboratory tests that are separately billable. The laboratories and independent dialysis facilities are paid for separately billable clinical laboratory tests according to the Medicare laboratory fee schedule for independent laboratories. Independent dialysis facilities billing for separately billable laboratory tests that they perform must submit claims to the FI. Independent laboratories must bill the carrier.

Hospital-based laboratories providing separately billable laboratory service to hospital dialysis patients of the hospital's dialysis facility bill separately and are paid in accordance with the outpatient lab provisions. However, where the hospital lab does tests for an independent dialysis facility or for another hospital's facility, the non-patient billing provisions apply.

Clinical laboratory tests can be performed individually or in predetermined groups on automated profile equipment. Automated profiles and application of the "50 percent rule" can be found in Chapter 16 of this manual.

A specimen collection fee determined by CMS (as of this writing, up to \$3.00) will be allowed for ESRD Method II billing only in the following circumstances:

- Drawing a blood sample through venipuncture (i.e., inserting into a vein a needle with a syringe or vacutainer to draw the specimen).
- Collecting a urine sample by catheterization.

Laboratory tests for Hemodialysis, Intermittent Peritoneal Dialysis (IPD), Continuous Cycling Peritoneal Dialysis (CCPD), and Hemofiltration (as specifically listed below) are usually performed for dialysis patients and are routinely covered at the frequency specified in the absence of indications to the contrary, i.e., no documentation of medical necessity is required other than knowledge of the patient's status as an ESRD beneficiary. When any of these tests is performed at a frequency greater than that specified, the additional tests are separately billable and are covered only if they are medically justified by accompanying documentation. A diagnosis of ESRD alone is not sufficient medical evidence to warrant coverage of the additional tests. The nature of the illness or injury (diagnosis, complaint, or symptom) requiring the performance of the test(s) must be present on the claim. Such information must be furnished using the ICD-9-CM coding system.

#### **Per Treatment**

All hematocrit, hemoglobin, and clotting time tests furnished incident to dialysis treatments

#### **Weekly**

Prothrombin time for patients on anticoagulant therapy

Serum Creatinine

#### **Weekly or Thirteen Per Quarter**

BUN

#### **Monthly**

|                 |                   |                      |
|-----------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Serum Calcium   | Serum Bicarbonate | Alkaline Phosphatase |
| Serum Potassium | Serum Phosphorous | AST, SGOT            |
| Serum Chloride  | Total Protein     | LDH                  |
| CBC             | Serum Albumin     |                      |

**Automated Battery of Tests** - If an automated battery of tests, such as the SMA-12, is performed and contains most of the tests listed in one of the weekly or monthly categories, it is not necessary to **separately** identify any tests in the battery that are not listed.

Guidelines for Separately Billable Tests for Hemodialysis, IPD, CCPD, and Hemofiltration

Serum Aluminum - one every 3 months

Serum Ferritin - one every 3 months

## **60.2 - Drugs Furnished in Dialysis Facilities**

(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)

### **A3-3644.F.1 - 3644.F.5, B3-2231, RDF-319.1**

Payment is made for drugs furnished in independent dialysis facilities, and paid outside the composite rate, based on the lower of billed charges or the drug maximum payment allowance. Coinsurance and deductible are applied to allowed charges.

Hospital-based facilities are paid under outpatient PPS, including related deductible and coinsurance rules.

See the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 11 for a description of drugs that are part of the composite rate and when other drugs may be covered.

Except for EPO, (See [§60.4](#)), drugs and biologicals, such as blood, may be covered in the home dialysis setting only if the “incident to a physician’s services” criteria are met (i.e., it is not covered under the composite rate). Normally, a physician is not in the patient’s home when the drugs or biologicals are administered, and therefore, drugs and biologicals generally are not paid in the home setting.

### **60.2.1 - Billing Procedures for Drugs for Facilities**

(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)

#### **A3-3644**

The following billing procedures apply to independent and hospital based facilities.

Facilities identify and bill for drugs by HCPCS code, along with revenue code 0636, “Drugs Requiring Specific Information.” Example below includes the HCPCS code and indicates the lowest common denominator for the dosage. Facilities use the units field as a multiplier to arrive at the dosage amount.

#### **EXAMPLE**

| <b>HCPCS</b> | <b>Drug</b> | <b>Dosage (lowest denominator)</b> | <b>Amount</b> |
|--------------|-------------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| J3360        | Valium      | 5 mg                               | \$2.00        |

Actual dosage, 10 mg

On the bill, the facility shows J3360 and 2 in the units field ( $2 \times 5 \text{ mg} = 10 \text{ mg}$ ). For independent facilities, FIs compare the price of \$4.00 ( $2 \times \$2.00$ ) to the billed charge and pay the lower, subject to coinsurance and deductible.

**NOTE:** When the dosage amount is greater than the amount indicated for the HCPCS code, the facility rounds up to determine units. In the example above, if the dosage were 7 mg, the facility would show 2 in the units field.

Facilities bill for supplies used to administer drugs with revenue code 0270, “Medical/Surgical Supplies.” The number of administrations is shown in the units field.

For each administration \$.50 is paid to independent facilities. This covers the cost of any size syringe, swabs, needles, and gloves.

#### **EXAMPLE**

| <b>Revenue Code</b> | <b>Units</b> |
|---------------------|--------------|
| 0270                | 3            |

The price for supplies is \$1.50, subject to coinsurance and deductible.

### **60.2.2 - Drug Payment Amounts for Facilities**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

#### **AB-99-63**

Hospital based facilities are paid under the Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS). Independent facilities are paid based on the AWP. See Chapter 17 for a complete description of drug pricing.

Payment for separately billable ESRD drugs is subject to the Medicare policy that the program does not pay for items that are not medically necessary, or pay for the cost of luxury items beyond the basic item required to treat the patient's medical condition. Therefore, payment is limited to the reimbursement that would be made for the generic form of the drug or the lowest cost equivalent drug. Payment for the additional price of a brand name drug in excess of the price of the generic drug may be made only if the FI determines that the brand name drug is medically necessary.

### **60.2.3 - Use of Additional Codes by Facilities to Report Drugs**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

#### **AB-02-005**

Drugs are assigned HCPCS codes. If no HCPCS code is listed for a drug (e.g., a new drug) the facility bills using HCPCS code J3490, "Unclassified Drugs," and submits documentation identifying the drug. To establish a code for the drug, the FI checks HCPCS to verify that there is no acceptable HCPCS code for billing and if a code is not found checks with the local carrier, which may have a code and price that is appropriate. If no code is found the drug is processed under HCPCS code J3490. See Chapter 17 for a complete description of drug pricing.

### **60.2.4 - Intravenous Iron Therapy**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

#### **RDF-319.4, A3-3644.E**

Iron deficiency is a common condition in ESRD patients undergoing dialysis. Iron is a critical structural component of hemoglobin, a key protein found in normal red blood cells (RBCs) which transports oxygen. Without this important building block, anemic patients experience difficulty in restoring adequate, healthy RBC (hematocrit) levels.

Clinical management of iron deficiency involves treating patients with iron replacement products while they undergo hemodialysis.

#### **60.2.4.1 - Facility Billing Requirements to the Intermediary**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

##### **A3-3644**

See Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 11 for coverage and effective dates applicable to intravenous iron therapy services.

For claims with dates of service on or after December 1, 2000, sodium ferric gluconate complex in sucrose injection is covered by Medicare for first line treatment of iron deficiency anemia in patients undergoing chronic hemodialysis who are receiving supplemental erythropoietin therapy. Payment is made on a reasonable cost basis for claims with dates of service on or after December 1, 2000 in renal dialysis centers (freestanding facilities). Payment is made pursuant to [42 CFR 405.517](#) for claims with dates of service on or after January 1, 2001.

For claims with dates of service on or after October 1, 2001, Medicare also covers iron sucrose injection as a first line treatment of iron deficiency anemia when furnished intravenously to patients undergoing chronic hemodialysis who are receiving supplemental erythropoietin therapy. Payment is made under the outpatient prospective payment system for hospital outpatient departments. Payment is made on a reasonable cost basis in CAHs and in renal dialysis centers (freestanding facilities). See Chapter 17. Deductible and coinsurance apply.

Facilities bill the FI using type of bill 72X and revenue code 0636. For claims with dates of service on or after December 1, 2000, report HCPCS code J3490 (Unclassified drugs) for sodium ferric gluconate complex in sucrose injection. For claims with dates of service on or after January 1, 2001, facilities report HCPCS code J2915 for sodium ferric gluconate complex in sucrose injection. Until a specific code is developed for iron sucrose injection, report HCPCS code J3490 (Unclassified drugs).

#### **60.2.4.2 - Physician Billing Requirements to the Carrier**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

##### **B3-4461.1, B3-4461.2, B3-4461.3**

##### **A - Sodium Ferric Gluconate Complex in Sucrose Injection**

Sodium Ferric Gluconate Complex in sucrose injection may be payable for claims with dates of service on or after December 1, 2000 when furnished intravenously, for first line treatment of iron deficiency anemia in patients undergoing chronic hemodialysis who are receiving supplemental erythropoietin therapy. Physicians bill and carriers pay for HCPCS codes J1755 or J1756 when submitted with a primary diagnosis for chronic renal failure and a secondary diagnosis for iron deficiency anemia in Item 21. The ICD-9-CM diagnosis codes are:

- 585 - Primary diagnosis for chronic renal failure, and

- 280.0, 280.1, 280.8, or 280.9 - Only one is necessary as a secondary diagnosis for iron deficiency anemia.

This benefit is subject to the Part B deductible and coinsurance and should be paid per current Medicare drug payment reimbursement rules. Carriers may cover other uses of this drug at their discretion.

### **B - Iron Sucrose Injection**

Iron Sucrose injections are payable for claims with dates of service on or after October 1, 2001, when furnished intravenously, for first line treatment of iron deficiency anemia in patients undergoing chronic hemodialysis who are receiving supplemental erythropoietin therapy. Until a specific code for iron sucrose injection is developed, providers must submit HCPCS code J3490, with the appropriate explanation of drug name and dosage entered in Item 19 of the form CMS-1500 or the corresponding electronic format. The primary diagnosis code ICD-9-CM 585 for chronic renal failure and one of the following secondary diagnosis codes for iron deficiency anemia ICD-9-CM codes 280.0, 280.1, 280.8, or 280.9 must be entered in Item 21. Iron sucrose injection is subject to the Part B deductible and coinsurance and should be paid per current Medicare drug payment reimbursement rules. Carriers may cover other uses of this drug at their discretion.

### **C - Messages for Use with Denials**

The following denial messages should be used to deny claims for sodium ferric gluconate complex in sucrose injection or iron sucrose injection due to a missing diagnosis code.

**Remittance Advice:** Claim adjustment reason code 16, Claim/service lacks information which is needed for adjudication, along with remark code M76, Incomplete/invalid patient's diagnosis(es) and condition (s).

**Explanation of Medicare Benefits:** 9.8, Medicare cannot pay for this service because the claim is missing information/documentation.

**Medicare Summary Notice:** 9.2, This item or service was denied because information required to make payment was missing.

## **60.3 - Blood and Blood Services Furnished in Hospital Based and Independent Dialysis Facilities**

(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)

### **A3-3644.G.1 - 3644.G.3, PRM-1-2711.3**

Facility staff time used to perform any service in the dialysis unit, including time to administer blood, is included in the composite rate. However, the following may be paid in addition to the composite rate.

- Blood;
- Supplies used to administer blood; and
- Blood processing fees (e.g. blood typing and cross-matching) that are charged by the blood supplier or lb.

**Hospital-based facilities** - Payment is made on a reasonable cost basis in the same way as for any other Medicare beneficiary receiving blood on an outpatient basis. In determining the reasonable cost for blood, FIs consider the charges for blood from independent blood banks.

**Independent dialysis facilities** - Payment is made at the lower of the actual charge on the bill or a reasonable charge that the FI determines. In establishing the reasonable charge, FIs consider price lists of independent blood banks (e.g., Red Cross or hospital) that offer services to providers in the area. Also, the carrier allowable charges are considered where available.

**Billing Entries related to blood** - HCPCS codes and related charges are reported by both hospital-based and independent renal facilities. If HCPCS codes are sufficient to describe the services provided by blood banks in the contractors area, the carrier should establish reasonable charge amounts for the codes and make payments to facilities based on the lower of the billed charge or the reasonable charge amounts.

In some areas, blood banks group a number of services into one charge. For example, they may have one charge covering washed cells with a crossmatch. There is one HCPCS code for washed red blood cells, and there are others for typing and crossmatching. Facilities should use a combination of the available codes to reflect the one charge by the blood bank. However, if this skews the payment for independent facilities, the contractor should assign a local code for the combination of services. For supplies, facilities use revenue code 0270. Contractors establish local codes for blood administration sets and filters and set reasonable charge amounts for independent facilities.

Contractors should report local codes, along with the definition and billing frequency, by the 15th of the month following the end of each quarter to:

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Center for Medicare Management  
Chronic Care Policy Group  
Room: C5-05-27  
Mail Stop C4-10-07  
7500 Security Blvd.  
Baltimore MD 21244-1850

Also, send a copy to the HCPCS Coordinator in your RO.

**NOTE:** All unapproved local procedure and modifier codes must be deleted by October 16, 2002. All approved HCPCS Level III local codes and modifiers must be deleted by December 31, 2003. For information on obtaining temporary national codes to replace any essential local codes, see transmittal AB-02-005.

## 60.4 - Erythropoietin (EPO)

(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)

**A3-3644.D.1 - D.3, PRM-1-2710.3.A - D, RDF-207.5.A - C, B3-2049.5.B, B3-2049.3.B.1, PM AB 97-2, PM AB-00-76, PM A-01-106, RDF-319**

Coverage rules for EPO are explained in the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 11.

Intermediaries pay for EPO to independent ESRD facilities (facilities that are not classified as hospital based) as an add-on amount to the composite rate. No additional payment is made to administer EPO, whether in a facility or a home.

If the beneficiary obtains EPO from a supplier for self-administration, the supplier bills the DMERC and the DMERC pays at the rate shown in [§60.4.3](#)

Where EPO is administered in a hospital outpatient department for home dialysis or for patients with chronic renal failure (but not yet on dialysis), payment for EPO is paid under hospital outpatient PPS rules.

Program payment may not be made to a physician for EPO for self-administration. Where EPO is payable as “incident to services” the regular carrier processes the claim.

### EPO Payment Methodology

| Type of provider                                               | Composite Add on Payment | OPPS | DMERC FEE | No separate payment |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------|-----------|---------------------|
| In-facility freestanding ESRD facility                         | X                        |      |           |                     |
| In-facility provider based ESRD facility                       | X                        |      |           |                     |
| Hospital OP not on dialysis                                    |                          | X    |           |                     |
| Self-administer Home Method I                                  | X                        |      |           |                     |
| Self administer Home Method II                                 |                          |      | X         |                     |
| Incident to physician in facility or for self-administration * |                          |      |           | X                   |

\* Medicare pays for a drug if self-administered by a dialysis patient and would still pay the facility if the doctor administered it incident to in a facility.

The Dialysis Outcomes Quality Initiative recommends a threshold hematocrit value range of 33 to 36 percent. National policy requires FIs and carriers to identify practitioners with an atypical number of patients with hematocrit levels above a 90-day rolling average of 37.5 percent for routine medical; review activities, such as provider education or pre-

payment reviews. That is, medical documentation is not required for a single value over 36 percent. However, FIs and carriers must make a determination upon post payment review if the treating physician argues it is medically necessary to have a target hematocrit that is greater than 36 percent (which would then exceed the rolling average of 37.5 percent). These hematocrit requirements apply only to EPO furnished as an ESRD benefit under [§1881\(b\)](#) of the Social Security Act (the Act). EPO furnished incident to a physician's service is not included in this policy. Carriers have discretion for local policy for EPO furnished as "incident to service."

#### **60.4.1 - EPO Facility Billing Requirements Using UB-92/Form CMS-1450**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

##### **A3-3644, PRM-1-2710.3**

Revenue codes 0634 and 0635 are used to report EPO. Code 0634 reports the number of administrations under 10,000 units and 0635 reports the number of administrations of 10,000 or more.

The number of units of EPO administered during the billing period is reported with value code 68.

The hematocrit reading taken prior to the last administration of EPO during the billing period must also be reported on the UB-92/Form CMS-1450 with value code 49.

The hemoglobin reading taken during the billing period must be reported on the UB-92/Form CMS-1450 with value code 48.

Either the hematocrit or the hemoglobin reading is required. The FI must retain the hematocrit (hct) or hemoglobin (hgb) reading in format accessible to the claims process for use to average readings for a 90-day period on future claims.

The statutory payment allowance for EPO is the only allowance for the drug and its administration when used for ESRD patients. Payment for medical supplies needed for the administration of EPO, whether in the home or in a facility, is included in the Medicare payment rate for EPO.

#### **60.4.2 - EPO Supplier Billing Requirements (Method II) on the Form CMS-1500**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

##### **B3-4273.1**

The correct EPO code to use is the one that indicates the patient's most recent hematocrit (Hct) (rounded to the nearest whole percent) or hemoglobin (Hgb) (rounded to the nearest g/dl) prior to the date of service of the EPO. For example, if the patient's most recent hematocrit was 20.5 percent, bill Q9921; if it was 28.4 percent, bill Q9928.

To convert actual hemoglobin to corresponding hematocrit for Q code reporting, multiply the Hgb value by 3 and round to the nearest whole number. For example, if Hgb = 8.4, report as Q9925 ( $8.4 \times 3 = 25.2$ , rounded down to 25).

One unit of service of EPO is reported for each 1000 units dispensed. For example if 20,000 units are dispensed, bill 20 units. If the dose dispensed is not an even multiple of 1,000, rounded down for 1 - 499 units (e.g. 20,400 units dispensed = 20 units billed), round up for 500 - 999 units (e.g. 20,500 units dispensed = 21 units billed).

Q9920 Injection of EPO, per 1,000 units, at patient Hct of 20 or less

Q9921 Injection of EPO, per 1,000 units, at patient Hct of 21

Q9922 Injection of EPO, per 1,000 units, at patient Hct of 22

Q9923 Injection of EPO, per 1,000 units, at patient Hct of 23

Q9924 Injection of EPO, per 1,000 units, at patient Hct of 24

Q9925 Injection of EPO, per 1,000 units, at patient Hct of 25

Q9926 Injection of EPO, per 1,000 units, at patient Hct of 26

Q9927 Injection of EPO, per 1,000 units, at patient Hct of 27

Q9928 Injection of EPO, per 1,000 units, at patient Hct of 28

Q9929 Injection of EPO, per 1,000 units, at patient Hct of 29

Q9930 Injection of EPO, per 1,000 units, at patient Hct of 30

Q9931 Injection of EPO, per 1,000 units, at patient Hct of 31

Q9932 Injection of EPO, per 1,000 units, at patient Hct of 32

Q9933 Injection of EPO, per 1,000 units, at patient Hct of 33

Q9934 Injection of EPO, per 1,000 units, at patient Hct of 34

Q9935 Injection of EPO, per 1,000 units, at patient Hct of 35

Q9936 Injection of EPO, per 1,000 units, at patient Hct of 36

Q9937 Injection of EPO, per 1,000 units, at patient Hct of 37

Q9938 Injection of EPO, per 1,000 units, at patient Hct of 38

Q9939 Injection of EPO, per 1,000 units, at patient Hct of 39

Q9940 Injection of EPO, per 1,000 units, at patient Hct of 40 or above

**NOTE:** Hospitals billing EPO for patients with chronic renal failure who are not on a regular course of dialysis, are required to utilize bill type 13X, and report charges under revenue code 0636 with HCPCS code Q0136 and without value codes 48, 49, and 68. Payment is made under the Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS).

#### **60.4.2.1 - Other Information Required on the Form CMS-1500**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

##### **B3-4273.1**

The following information is required for EPO. Incomplete assigned claims are returned to providers for completion. Incomplete unassigned claims are developed. Note that when a claim is submitted on paper Form CMS-1500, these items are submitted on a

separate document. It is not necessary to enter them into the claims processing system. This information is used in utilization review.

- A. Diagnoses - The diagnoses must be submitted according to ICD-9-CM and correlated to the procedure. This information is in Item 21, of the Form CMS-1500.
- B. Hematocrit (HCT)/Hemoglobin (Hgb) - There are special HCPCS codes for reporting the injection of EPO. These allow the simultaneous reporting of the patient's latest HCT or Hgb reading before administration of EPO.

The physician and/or staff is instructed to enter a separate line item for injections of EPO at different HCT/Hgb levels. The Q code for each line items is entered in Item 24D.

1. Code Q9920 - Injection of EPO, per 1,000 units, at patient HCT of 20 or less/Hgb of 6.8 or less.
2. Codes Q9921 through Q9939 - Injection of EPO, per 1,000 units, at patient HCT of 21 to 39/Hgb of 6.9 to 13.1. For HCT levels of 21 or more, up to a HCT of 39/Hgb of 6.9 to 13.1, a Q code that includes the actual HCT levels is used. To convert actual Hgb to corresponding HCT values for Q code reporting, multiply the Hgb value by 3 and round to the nearest whole number. Use the whole number to determine the appropriate Q code.

**EXAMPLES:** If the patient's HCT is 25/Hgb is 8.2-8.4, Q9925 must be entered on the claim. If the patient's HCT is 39/Hgb is 12.9-13.1, Q9939 is entered.

3. Code Q9940 - Injection of EPO, per 1,000 units at patient HCT of 40 or above.

A single line item may include multiple doses of EPO administered while the patient's HCT level remained the same.

- C. Units Administered - The standard unit of EPO is 1,000. The number of 1,000 units administered per line item is included on the claim. The physician's office enters 1 in the units field for each multiple of 1,000 units. For example, if 12,000 units are administered, 12 is entered. This information is shown in Item 24G (Days/Units) on Form CMS-1500.

In some cases, the dosage for a single line item does not total an even multiple of 1,000. If this occurs, the physician's office rounds down supplemental dosages of 0 to 499 units to the prior 1,000 units. Supplemental dosages of 500 to 999 are rounded up to the next 1,000 units.

#### **EXAMPLES**

A patient's HCT reading on August 6 was 22/Hgb was 7.3. The patient received 5,000 units of EPO on August 7, August 9, and August 11, for a total of 15,000 units. The first line of Item 24 of Form CMS-1500 shows:

| <b>Dates of<br/>Service</b> | <b>Procedure<br/>Code</b> | <b>Days or<br/>Units</b> |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|

| Dates of Service | Procedure Code | Days or Units |
|------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 8/7 - 8/11       | Q9922          | 15            |

On September 13, the patient's HCT reading increased to 27/Hgb increased to 9. The patient received 5,100 units of EPO on September 13, September 15, and September 17, for a total of 15,300 units. Since less than 15,500 units were given, the figure is rounded down to 15,000. This line on the claim form shows:

| Dates of Service | Procedure Code | Days or Units |
|------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 9/13 - 9/17      | Q9927          | 15            |

On October 16, the HCT level increased to 33/Hgb increased to 11. The patient received doses of 4,850 units on October 16, October 18, and October 20 for a total of 14,550 units. Since more than 14,500 units were administered, the figure is rounded up to 15,000. Form CMS-1500 shows:

| Dates of Service | Procedure Code | Days or Units |
|------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 10/16 - 10/20    | Q9933          | 15            |

**NOTE:** Creatinine and weight identified below are required on EPO claims as applicable.

- D. Date of the Patient's most recent HCT or Hgb.
- E. Most recent HCT or Hgb level - (prior to initiation of EPO therapy).
- F. Date of most recent HCT or Hgb level - (prior to initiation of EPO therapy).
- G. Patient's most recent serum creatinine - (within the last month, prior to initiation of EPO therapy).
- H. Date of most recent serum creatinine - (prior to initiation of EPO therapy).
- I. Patient's weight in kilograms
- J. Patient's starting dose per kilogram - (The usual starting dose is 50-100 units per kilogram.)

#### **60.4.2.2 - Completion of Subsequent Form CMS-1500 Claims for EPO (Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

##### **B3-4273.2**

Subsequent claims are completed as initial claims in [§60.4.2](#) except the following fields:

- A. Diagnoses.

- B. Hematocrit or Hemoglobin - This is indicated by the appropriate Q code. Claims include an EJ modifier to the Q code. This allows the contractor to identify subsequent **claims, which do not require as much information as initial claims and prevent unnecessary development.**
- C. Number of Units Administered - Subsequent claims may be submitted electronically.

### 60.4.3 - Payment Amount

(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)

#### A3-3644

For Method I patients, the FI pays the facility \$10 per 1,000 units of EPO administered, rounded to the nearest 100 units (i.e. \$1.00 per 100 units). Where EPO is furnished by a supplier that is not a facility the carrier, pays at the same rate.

Prior to January 1, 1994, the Method I payment was \$11 per 1,000 units. The statutory payment allowance for EPO is the only allowance for the drug and its administration. Payment for medical supplies for the administration of EPO, whether in the home or in a facility, is included in the Medicare payment rate for EPO.

Physician payment is calculated through the drug payment methodology described in Chapter 17.

The composite rate add-on amount (the current \$10 per 1,000 unit rate and the past \$11 per 1,000 unit rate) is updated nationally by CMS. This add-on does not vary geographically and is the same for hospital-based and independent dialysis facilities.

**EXAMPLE:** The billing period is 2/1/94 - 2/28/94.

The facility provides the following:

| Date | Units | Date | Units |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 2/1  | 3000  | 2/15 | 2500  |
| 2/4  | 3000  | 2/18 | 2500  |
| 2/6  | 3000  | 2/20 | 2560  |
| 2/8  | 3000  | 2/22 | 2500  |
| 2/11 | 2500  | 2/25 | 2000  |
| 2/13 | 2500  | 2/27 | 2000  |

Total 31,060 units

For value code 68, the facility enters 31,060. The 31,100 is used to determine the rate payable. This is 31,060 rounded to the nearest 100 units. The amount payable is  $31.1 \times \$10 = \$311.00$ . In their systems, FIs have the option of setting up payment of \$1.00 per 100 units.

**EXAMPLE:** 311 x \$1.00 = \$311.00

The coinsurance and deductible are based on the Medicare allowance payable, not on the provider's charges. The provider may not charge the beneficiary more than 20 percent of the EPO allowance. This rule applies to each independent and hospital based facilities.

If an ESRD beneficiary requires 10,000 units or more of EPO per administration, special documentation must accompany the claim. It must consist of a narrative report that addresses the following:

- Iron deficiency. Most patients need supplemental iron therapy while being treated, even if they do not start out iron deficient;
- Concomitant conditions such as infection, inflammation, or malignancy. These conditions must be addressed to assure that EPO has maximum effect;
- Unrecognized blood loss. Patients with kidney disease and anemia may easily have chronic blood loss (usually gastrointestinal) as a major cause of anemia. In those circumstances, EPO is limited in effectiveness;
- Concomitant hemolysis, bone marrow dysplasia, or refractory anemia for a reason other than renal disease, e.g., aluminum toxicity;
- Folic acid or vitamin B12 deficiencies;
- Circumstances in which the bone marrow is replaced with other tissue, e.g., malignancy or osteitis fibrosa cystica; and
- Patient's weight, the current dose required, a historical record of the amount that has been given, and the hematocrit response to date.

#### **60.4.3.1 - Payment in Other Settings**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

##### **A3-3644**

In the hospital inpatient setting, payment is included in the DRG.

In a skilled nursing facility (SNF), payment is included in the prospective payment rate.

In a hospice, payment is included in the hospice per diem rate.

For a service furnished by a physician or incident to a physician's service, payment is made to the physician by the carrier in accordance with the rules for 'incident to' services. When EPO is administered in the renal facility, the service is not an "incident to" service and not under the "incident to" provision.

#### **60.4.3.2 - Hospital Outpatient Departments**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

##### **PM-A-01-106**

For patients with chronic renal failure who are not yet on a regular course of dialysis, EPO administered in a hospital outpatient department is paid under the Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS).

Hospitals use type of bill 13X and report charges under revenue code 0636 with HCPCS code Q0136 and without value codes 48, 49, 68 or condition codes 70 through 76.

#### **60.4.4 - Home Patients**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

##### **B3-4270.1**

Medicare covers EPO, including items related to its administration for dialysis patients who use EPO in the home, when requirements for a patient care plan and patient selection as described in the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 11, are met.

When EPO is prescribed for a home patient, it may be either administered in a facility, e.g., the one shown on the Form CMS-382 (home patient selection form) or furnished by a facility or Method II supplier for self-administration to a home patient determined to be competent to administer this drug. For EPO furnished for self-administration to Method I and Method II home patients determined to be competent, the facility bills its FI and the Method II supplier bills its DMERC. No additional payment is made for training a prospective self-administering patient or retraining an existing home patient to self-administer EPO.

In accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Method II patients who self-administer erythropoietin (EPO) may obtain EPO only from either their Method II supplier, or a Medicare certified ESRD facility. (See [42 CFR 414.335](#).)

In this case, the DMERC makes payment at the same rate that applies to facilities. Program payment may not be made for EPO furnished by a physician to a patient for self-administration.

##### **60.4.4.1 - Self Administered EPO Supply**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

##### **B3-4270.1**

Initially, facilities may bill for up to a 2-month supply of EPO for Method I beneficiaries who meet the criteria for selection for self-administration. After the initial two months' supply, the facility will bill for one month's supply at a time. Condition code 70 is used to indicate payment requested for a supply of EPO furnished a beneficiary. Usually, revenue code 0635 would apply since the supply would be over 10,000 units. Facilities leave FL 46, Units of Service, blank since they are not administering the drug. For value code 68, they enter the total amount of the supply.

#### **60.5 - Intradialytic Parenteral/Enteral Nutrition (IDPN)**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

##### **PRM-1-2711.6**

##### **A. General**

Parenteral/enteral nutrition (PEN) administered during dialysis may be covered under Medicare, but it is not part of the Medicare ESRD benefit. Therefore, an ESRD facility or PEN supplier may bill Medicare separately from the composite rate for PEN solution if

the patient meets all of the requirements for PEN coverage. (See Medicare Benefit Policy Manual for PEN coverage requirements.) If the ESRD facility bills, it does so as a PEN supplier and bills the appropriate DMERC.

## **B. Staff Time**

ESRD facility staff time used to administer PEN solution is not covered by Medicare, and, therefore, not included in the composite rate. (PEN is considered a self-administered therapy and generally administered in the patient's home.) Since it is not covered under Medicare, it is not part of the composite rate nor may a facility bill Medicare separately for it.

The costs of the staff time used for this purpose are allocated to a nonreimbursable cost center on the facility's Medicare ESRD facility cost report. If the facility cannot determine the cost of this service, any revenue the facility receives commensurate with the value of this service is used as an offset against the facility's cost.

Any payment the facility receives from the PEN supplier (e.g., for administration or record-keeping relating to the provision of parenteral nutritional therapy) is questionable under the Medicare program's anti-kickback provision.

## **60.6 - Hepatitis B Vaccine Furnished to ESRD Patients**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

### **PRM-1-2711.4**

The Medicare program covers hepatitis B vaccine and its administration when furnished to eligible beneficiaries in accordance with coverage rules. Payment may be made for both the vaccine and its administration (including staff time and supplies such as syringes). For coverage rules and HCPCS codes for billing, see Chapter 18. For payment rules see Chapter 17.

## **70 - Payment for Home Dialysis**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

### **A3-3644, PRM-1-2706.1.E, PRM-1-2706.2, A3-3169, RO-2 3440.2, B3-4270.1**

Home dialysis is dialysis performed by an appropriately trained dialysis patient at home. Hemodialysis, CCPD, IPD and CAPD may be performed at home. For all dialysis services furnished by an ESRD facility, the facility must accept assignment, and only the facility may be paid by the Medicare program. Method II suppliers can receive payment for patients selecting Method II. The Method II supplier must accept assignment. Method II suppliers receive payment for supplies and equipment only.

For purposes of home dialysis, a skilled nursing facility (SNF) may qualify as a beneficiary's home. The services are excluded from SNF consolidated billing for its inpatients. The home dialysis services are billed either by the ESRD facility or the supplier depending on the Method selection made by the beneficiary.

## **70.1 - Method Selection for Home Dialysis Payment**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

### **B3-4271, PRM-1-2740.2**

Medicare beneficiaries dialyzing at home can choose between two methods for Medicare program payment for care (exclusive of physician services), Method I or Method II as described below in [§70.2](#).

When an ESRD beneficiary begins a course of home dialysis, he or she fills out the Form CMS-382, “ESRD Beneficiary Selection,” to choose whether he or she wants to use Method I or Method II to obtain home dialysis equipment and supplies. Refer to <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/forms/cms382.pdf> for a copy of the ESRD Method Selection Form CMS-382, and the related instructions.

The beneficiary and or provider must:

- Furnish the information requested in items 1-6;
- Check only one block in items 7-9; and
- Enter the effective date at the bottom of item 7

The beneficiary must sign and date in items 11 and 12.

The facility sends the completed form to the FI. When the FI receives the correctly completed Form CMS-382, it must enter the beneficiary’s choice into the common working file (CWF) within 30 days of receipt. The format is in Chapter 27. For method II selections, the FI must follow-up every 30 days until the method selection has been correctly entered.

If a claim is received by the Intermediary on behalf of a beneficiary for whom an initial election is not recorded on CWF, CWF informs the FI to return the claim to the provider. The provider must submit a copy of the completed Form CMS-382 prior to resubmitting the claim.

If a claim is received by the Intermediary on behalf of a beneficiary for whom Method I has been selected, CWF informs the FI to deny the claim.

DMERCs deny Method II claims where there is no method selection on file at CWF.

### **70.1.1 - Change in Method**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

#### **PRM-1-2740.2.D**

Changes in method selection are effective January 1 of the year following the year in which the beneficiary requested the change. However, the FI may grant an exception in certain situations. The following is a sample list (i.e., not all-inclusive) of possible situations:

- Failure of a kidney transplant occurred within the past 6 months;
- Patient becomes confined to a nursing home or hospice;

- Home patient becomes an in-facility patient for any reason and then elects to go on home dialysis again after at least 6 full months in the center;
- Patient changes the place of residence to a location where the new facility does not recognize present method of payment and another facility is not available; or
- Patient is in a life threatening situation.

## **70.2 - Prevention of Double Billing Under Method I and II**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

### **PRM-1-2740.3**

Under Method I payment is made to the ESRD facility by the FI. Under Method II, payment is made to the facility for support services by the FI, but payment for home dialysis equipment and supplies is made to the supplier by the DMERC. The beneficiary's method and effective date are recorded on CWF.

The FI or contractor must pay claims in accordance with the documentation on the CWF record.

## **70.3 - Overpayments**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

### **PRM-1-2740.4**

Any overpayments that occur are subject to recovery following the usual Medicare program rules and procedures.

## **80 - Home Dialysis Method I Billing to the Intermediary**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

**A3-3644.A, PRM-1-2710, PRM-1-2710.4, A3-3169, RDF-318, RO2-3440, B3-4270, B3-4271**

If the Medicare home dialysis patient chooses Method I, the dialysis facility with which the Medicare home patient is associated assumes responsibility for providing all home dialysis equipment and supplies, and home support services. For these services, the facility receives the same Medicare dialysis payment rate as it would receive for an in-facility patient under the composite rate system. The beneficiary is responsible for paying any unmet Part B deductible and the 20-percent coinsurance. After the beneficiary's Part B deductible is met, the FI pays 80 percent of the specific facility's composite rate for each in-facility outpatient maintenance dialysis treatment.

Under Method I items and services included in the composite rate must be furnished by the facility, either directly or under arrangement. The cost of an item or service is included under the composite rate unless specifically excluded. Therefore, the determination as to whether an item or service is covered under the composite rate payment does not depend on the frequency that dialysis patients require the item or service, or the number of patients who require it. If the facility fails to provide (either directly or under arrangement) any part of the items and services covered under the rate, the facility cannot be paid any amount for the items and services that it does furnish.

New items or services developed after the rate applicable for that particular year was computed are included in the composite rate payments. As such, ESRD facilities assume the responsibility for providing a dialysis service and must decide whether a particular item or service is medically appropriate and cost effective. Since the composite rate is adjusted, as necessary, based on the most recent cost data available to CMS, the costs of new items and services are taken into account in setting future rates. Similarly, any savings attributable to advancements in the treatment of ESRD accrue to the facility because no adjustment to any individual facility's rate is made.

## **80.1 - Items and Services Included in the Composite Rate for Home Dialysis**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

### **A3-3169.1, PRM-1-2712**

The following items are paid for and must be furnished under the composite rate. The facility may furnish them directly under arrangements, to all of its home dialysis patients. If the facility fails to furnish (either directly or under arrangements) any part of the items and services covered under the rate, then the facility cannot be paid any amount for the part of the items and services that the facility does furnish.

- Medically necessary dialysis equipment and dialysis support equipment;
- Home dialysis support services including the delivery, installation, maintenance, repair, and testing of home dialysis equipment, and home support equipment;
- Purchase and delivery of all necessary dialysis supplies;
- Routine ESRD related laboratory tests; and
- All dialysis services furnished by the facility's staff.

The following items and services are included in the composite rate and may not be billed separately when furnished by a dialysis facility:

- Staff time used to administer blood;
- Dec clotting of shunts and any supplies used to dec clot shunts by facility staff in the dialysis unit;
- Oxygen and the administration of oxygen furnished in the dialysis unit;
- Staff time used to administer separately billable parenteral items;
- Bicarbonate dialysate;
- Cardiac monitoring;
- Catheter changes (Ideal Loop);
- Suture removal;
- Dressing changes;
- Crash cart usage for cardiac arrest; or
- Staff time used to collect specimens for all laboratory tests.

Sometimes outpatient dialysis related services (e.g., dec clotting of shunts, suture removal, injecting separately billable ESRD related drugs) are furnished in a department of the hospital other than the dialysis unit (e.g., the emergency room). These services may be paid in addition to the composite rate only if the services could not be furnished in a dialysis facility or the dialysis unit of the hospital, due to the absence of specialized equipment or staff, which can be found only in the other department. In the case of emergency services furnished in the hospital emergency room (ER), the services are paid separately subject to the additional requirement that there is a sudden onset of a medical condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain) such that the absence of immediate medical attention in the ER could reasonably be expected to result in either:

- Placing the patient's health in serious jeopardy;
- Causing serious impairment to bodily functions; or
- Causing serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part.

These situations are rare and, in the absence of documentation to the contrary, these conditions are deemed to be not met.

## **80.2 - General Intermediary Bill Processing Procedures for Method I Home Dialysis Services**

(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)

### **A3-3644, CWF documentation**

General instructions for completing the UB-92 or ANSI X12N formats are in Chapter 25. Instructions in [§§50](#) and [50.3](#), above, apply to provider reporting of ESRD home dialysis services under Method I.

All home dialysis patients must have chosen either Method I or Method II.

The FI uses the method of election information provided in the "Method" field of CWF trailer 14 "ESRD Method Trailer" attached to the query response when an ESRD claim is submitted for approval.

If the beneficiary has elected Method I, the FI pays the facility the composite rate plus any additional billable services.

If the beneficiary has elected Method II, the facility is not paid the composite rate or for home dialysis supplies and equipment. Payment is made only for support, backup, and emergency dialysis services.

### **80.2.1 - Required Billing Information for Method I Claims**

(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)

#### **A3-3644.2**

Method I claims require the same information as listed in [§50.3](#) above with the following changes.

**FLs 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30.** Condition Codes - Hospital-based and independent renal facilities complete these items. Note that one of the codes 71-76 is applicable for every bill. Special Program Indicator codes A0-A9 are not required.

Condition Code Structure (only codes effecting Medicare payment/processing are shown).

74 - Home - Providers enter this code to indicate the billing is for a patient who received dialysis services at home, but code 75 below did not apply.

### **80.3 - Calculating Payment for Intermittent Peritoneal Dialysis (IPD) for Method I Claims Submitted to the Intermediary**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

#### **PRM-1-2709, PRM-1-2709.1.A, 2709.2, A3-3112.6**

The value of a typical week of dialysis services generally serves as the maximum weekly payment; e.g., where, for nonmedical reasons, more frequent dialysis sessions of shorter duration are furnished.

While maintenance IPD is usually accomplished in sessions of 10-12 hours duration, three times per week, it is sometimes accomplished in fewer sessions of longer duration. The payment screens applicable to maintenance IPD, as well as the facility's actual payment for maintenance IPD, depends on the length of the dialysis session and the number of sessions furnished per week. If additional dialysis beyond the usual weekly maintenance dialysis is required because of special circumstances, the facility's claim for these extra services must be accompanied by a medical justification. Under these circumstances, additional payment may be made. In all cases, the Part B deductible and coinsurance apply.

#### **A - Maintenance IPD Sessions of Less Than 20 Hours Duration**

The payment screen applicable to a facility for maintenance IPD sessions of less than 20 hours duration is the same as the payment screen applicable to that facility for hemodialysis. (See [§50.6.2](#), above.) However, in addition to the per dialysis payment screen, there is also a weekly maintenance IPD screen equal to three times the per treatment hemodialysis screen. For example, if the applicable hemodialysis payment screen for a facility is \$150, then its maintenance IPD payment is \$150 per dialysis session and \$450 per week. Therefore, if the facility furnished two 12-hour IPD sessions to a patient in a week, its payment is based on a \$300 payment screen for that week. If the facility furnished three or more 12-hour IPD sessions to a patient in a week, payment is based on a \$450 weekly payment screen for that week.

#### **B - Maintenance IPD Sessions of More Than 20 But Less Than 30 Hours Duration**

Where maintenance IPD is accomplished in sessions of 20 hours or more duration but less than 30 hours, payment is made in accordance with the same weekly payment screen as described in subsection A. However, the individual dialysis session screen is equal to one and one half times the individual dialysis session screen derived in subsection A. Therefore, if the facility in the above example furnishes one 20-hour IPD session to a

patient in a week, its payment is based on a \$225 screen. Payment for two 20-hour maintenance IPD sessions to a patient in a week is based on a \$450 screen for that week.

### **C - Maintenance IPD Sessions of 30 Hours or More Duration**

Medical consultants indicate that patients undergoing IPD should be dialyzed more often than once per week. However, sometimes geographical considerations or other exigencies require a compromise to be made between optimum medical practice and patient convenience. In recognition of these special cases, IPD sessions of 30 hours or more duration are paid in accordance with the weekly payment screen described in subsection A. Therefore, if the facility in the above example furnished one 30-hour IPD session to a patient, it is paid in accordance with a \$450 screen for that week.

Intermittent Peritoneal Dialysis (IPD) is furnished in a dialysis facility or at home. IPD in a facility is very impractical because of the great amount of time required; therefore, there are very few patients who receive IPD in the facility.

### **80.3.1 - IPD at Home for Method I Claims Submitted to the Intermediary**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

#### **PRM-1-2709.1.B**

IPD in the home is accomplished according to any one of several schedules. The total weekly dialysis time varies from 50 to 80 hours. For example, home IPD may be furnished everyday for 10 hours per day, every other day for 15 hours per dialysis day, every night for 8 hours per night, etc. Regardless of the particular regimen used, under the composite rate home IPD is paid based on a weekly equivalence of three composite rates per week

With its FI's approval, a facility may be paid an equivalent daily rate equal to 3/7 of its usual composite rate.

### **80.4 - Calculating Payment for Continuous Ambulatory Peritoneal Dialysis (CAPD) and Continuous Cycling Peritoneal Dialysis (CCPD) Under the Composite rate**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

#### **PRM-1-2709.2, A3-3644.1**

CAPD and CCPD are furnished on a continuous basis, not in discrete sessions and, therefore, are paid on a weekly or daily basis, not on a per treatment basis. Billing instructions require providers to report the number of days in the units field. A facility's daily payment rate is 1/7 of three times the composite rate for a single hemodialysis treatment.

The equivalent weekly or daily IPD or CAPD/CCPD payment does not depend upon the number of exchanges of dialysate fluid per day (typically 3-5) or the actual number of days per week that the patient undergoes dialysis. The weekly (or daily) rate is based on the equivalency of one week of IPD or CAPD/CCPD to one week of hemodialysis, regardless of the actual number of dialysis days or exchanges in that week.

All home dialysis support services, equipment and supplies necessary for home IPD or CAPD/CCPD are included in the composite rate payment. No support services, equipment or supplies may be paid in addition to the composite rate.

## **90 - Method II Billing**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

**A3-3644.A, RO-2-3440.C, B3-4270, B3-4271, B3-4270.1, B3-4270.2, B3-34271, PRM-1-2740, A3-3644.3**

Physicians and independent laboratories, must submit claims (Form CMS-1500 or electronic equivalent) to their local carrier for services furnished to end stage renal disease (ESRD) beneficiaries. Suppliers of Method II dialysis equipment and supplies will submit their claims (Form CMS-1500 or electronic equivalent) to the appropriate Durable Medical Equipment Regional Carriers (DMERCs). All ESRD facilities must submit their claims to their appropriate FI.

The amount of Medicare payment under Method II for home dialysis equipment and supplies may NOT exceed \$1974.45 for continuous cycling peritoneal dialysis (CCPD) and \$1490.85 for all other methods of dialysis.

All laboratory tests furnished to home dialysis patients who have selected payment Method II (see [§70.1](#) above), are billed to and paid by the carrier at the fee schedule, if the tests are performed by an independent laboratory for an independent dialysis facility patient.

If the beneficiary elects to deal directly with a supplier and make arrangements for securing the necessary supplies and equipment to dialyze at home, and chooses Method II, he/she deals directly with a supplier of home dialysis equipment and supplies (this supplier is not a dialysis facility). A supplier other than a facility bills the DMERC. There can be only one supplier per beneficiary, and the supplier must accept assignment. The beneficiary is responsible for any unmet Part B deductible and the 20 percent coinsurance.

Only a supplier that is not a dialysis facility may submit a claim to a DMERC for home dialysis supplies and equipment. Suppliers will submit these claims on Form CMS-1500, or electronic equivalent. Under Method II, beneficiaries may not submit any claims and cannot receive payment for any benefits for home dialysis equipment and supplies.

The supplier must have a written agreement with a Medicare approved dialysis facility that will provide all necessary support, backup, and emergency dialysis services. The dialysis facility will not receive a regular per treatment payment for a patient who chooses Method II.

However, if the facility provides any support services, backup, and emergency dialysis services to a beneficiary who selects this option, the facility is reimbursed for the items or services it furnishes. Hospital-based facilities are paid the reasonable cost of support services, subject to the lesser of cost or charges provisions of [§1833\(a\)\(2\)\(A\)](#) of the Act. Independent facilities are paid on a reasonable charge basis for any home dialysis support services they furnish.

## **A - Description of Support Services**

Support services specifically applicable to home patients include but are not limited to:

- Surveillance of the patient's home adaptation, including provisions for visits to the home in accordance with a written plan prepared and periodically reviewed by a team that includes the patient's physician and other professionals familiar with the patient's condition;
- Furnishing dialysis-related emergency services;
- Consultation for the patient with a qualified social worker and a qualified dietician;
- Maintaining a record-keeping system which assures continuity of care;
- Maintaining and submitting all required documentation to the ESRD network;
- Assuring that the water supply is of the appropriate quality;
- Assuring that the appropriate supplies are ordered on an ongoing basis;
- Arranging for the provision of all ESRD laboratory tests;
- Testing and appropriate treatment of water used in dialysis;
- Monitoring the functioning of dialysis equipment;
- All other necessary dialysis services as required under the ESRD conditions for coverage;
- Watching the patient perform CAPD and assuring that it is done correctly, and reviewing with the patient any aspects of the technique he/she may have forgotten, or informing the patient of modification in apparatus or technique;
- Documenting whether the patient has or has not had peritonitis that requires physician intervention or hospitalization, (unless there is evidence of peritonitis, a culture for peritonitis is not necessary);
- Inspection of the catheter site; and
- Since home dialysis support services include maintaining a medical record for each home dialysis patient, the Method II supplier must report to the support service dialysis facility within 30 days all items and services that it furnished to the patient so that the facility can record this information in the patient's medical record.

The services must be furnished in accordance with the written plan required for home dialysis patients. See the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 15, for coverage of telehealth services, and this manual, Chapter 12 for billing telehealth.

Each of the support services may be paid routinely at a frequency of once per month. Any support services furnished in excess of this frequency must be documented for being reasonable and necessary. For example, the patient may contract peritonitis and require an unscheduled connecting tube change.

## **B - Reasonableness Determinations**

Support services (which include the laboratory services included under the composite rate for in-facility patients) are paid on a reasonable charge basis to independent facilities and a reasonable cost basis to hospital-based facilities, subject to the Method II payment cap (refer to [§140](#)). A reasonable cost/charge determination must be made for each individual support service furnished to home patients. With respect to the connecting tube change, facilities may bill Medicare for the personnel services required to change the connecting tube, but must look to the Method II supplier for payment for the connecting tube itself.

The payment cap is not a payment rate that is paid automatically each month. Accordingly, in no case may the FI routinely pay any monthly amount for support services without a claim that shows the services actually furnished.

### **90.1 - DMERC Denials for Beneficiary Submitted Claims Under Method II**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

**A3-3170.6, A3-3644.3, A3-3644.3.A - E, HO-238.2.C, HO-238.3, HO-238.3.A, B3-2231.3.A and B, B3-2231, B3-4270.1, PRM-1-2709.2.A**

Under Method II, beneficiaries may not submit any claims and cannot receive payment for any benefits for home dialysis equipment and supplies. DMERCs must deny unassigned and beneficiary submitted claims with the following MSN messages.

MSN # 16.6: “This item or service cannot be paid unless the provider accepts assignment.”

Spanish: “Este artículo o servicio no se pagará a menos de que el proveedor acepte asignación.”

MSN # 16.7: “Your provider must complete and submit your claim.”

Spanish: “Su proveedor debe completar y someter su reclamación.”

MSN # 16.36: “If you have already paid it, you are entitled to a refund from this provider.”

Spanish: “Si usted ya lo ha pagado, tiene derecho a un reembolso de su proveedor.”

### **90.2 - Requirements for Payment by the DMERC**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

**B3-4270.1, B3-3045.7**

DMERCS may make payment to home dialysis suppliers only if all of the following conditions are met:

- The beneficiary has elected Method II and to receive home dialysis equipment and supplies from an independent supplier. (Method II);
- The supplier is not a Medicare approved dialysis facility;
- The supplier accepts assignment for all Method II equipment and supplies;

- The supplier agrees to be the beneficiary's sole supplier for all home dialysis equipment and supplies;
- The supplier agrees to bill on a monthly basis for the quantity of supplies appropriate for that period. (However, there is one exception to this rule. Beneficiaries are permitted to have one month's supplies in reserve in case of emergency.);
- The supplier maintains a written certification in its files that it has a written agreement with a Medicare approved dialysis facility under which the facility will furnish all necessary support, backup, and emergency dialysis services, for each beneficiary the supplier services. (For Medicare beneficiaries who are also entitled to military or veterans benefits, a military or Veteran's Administration (VA) hospital satisfies this requirement.) As of July 1, 2002, suppliers are required to use a modifier (Specific required documentation on file) on any claim for services requiring such a backup agreement. See [§90.4](#) for more information. The supplier may not provide supplies or services to the beneficiary, or submit a claim to the DMERC, until they have a valid written support service facility agreement for that beneficiary. The dialysis facility must be a reasonable distance from the beneficiary's home in order to furnish these services. Determine a reasonable distance by considering such variables as terrain, whether the patient's home is located in a rural or urban area, and the usual distances traveled and time in transit by patients in the area in obtaining health care services;
- In cases where a supplier cannot establish an agreement with a support service facility that is within a reasonable distance from the patient's home, the supplier must establish a written agreement with a support service facility outside of the geographic area of the patient's home. However, in this situation, the support service facility must establish a written agreement with a dialysis facility within the beneficiary's geographic region to provide any required in-facility dialysis treatments. In this situation, the support service facility will be responsible for providing all other necessary services for the patient, and must provide for the coordination of the patient's care and monitor the patient through frequent visits to the patient's home. The signed agreement with the Method II supplier must stipulate how the support services facility will provide each of the required support services. The written agreement must include documentation to support the arrangement with the local facility for any needed in-facility services;
- The supplier reports to the backup facility within 30 days all items and services that it furnishes to the patient so that the facility can record this information in the patient's medical record; and
- The supplies and equipment are reasonable and necessary for that patient.

## **90.2.1 - Supplier Documentation Required**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

### **B3-4270.1**

An order for the supplies or equipment which is reviewed, signed, and dated by the ordering physician must be kept on file by the supplier. The medical records must contain information which supports the medical necessity of the items ordered. The appropriate ICD-9 diagnosis code for end-stage renal failure patient requiring dialysis, 585.0, should be referenced on each claim.

If a miscellaneous supply or equipment code (A4910, A4913, E1699) is used and if the monthly charges for the other codes billed is lower than the payment cap, then the claim must include a narrative which adequately describes each item billed using the miscellaneous codes.

The supplier also must have on file the original written agreement with a Medicare approved dialysis facility (or military or VA hospital) which specifies that it will provide at least the following support services:

- Surveillance of the patient's home adaptation, including provisions for visits to the home or the facility;
- Consultation for the patient with a qualified social worker and a qualified dietician;
- Maintain a record-keeping system which assures continuity of care and includes a record of supplies and equipment provided by the Method II supplier;
- Maintaining and submitting all required documentation to the ESRD network;
- Assuring that the water supply is of the appropriate quality if hemodialysis is the dialysis method;
- Assuring that the appropriate supplies are ordered on an ongoing basis;
- Arranging for the provision of all ESRD related laboratory tests, and billing for the laboratory tests that are included in the composite rate;
- Furnishing institutional dialysis services and supplies;
- Furnishing dialysis-related emergency services; and
- Furnishing all other necessary dialysis services and supplies, dialysate, tubing and gauze pads.

**NOTE:** As of July 1, 2002, claims to DMERCS must include modifier KX (Specific required documentation on file) on any claim for services requiring such a backup agreement. See [§90.4](#) for more information.

## **90.2.2 - DMERC Letter Explaining Requirements to Method II Supplier**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

### **B3-4270.1 updated with transmittal B3-1729 (11-01)**

DMERCs must explain the Medicare requirements to every Method II supplier they service. Below is a sample letter to use.

Dear Method II Supplier:

Our records show that you supply home dialysis equipment and/or supplies to Medicare home dialysis beneficiaries who have chosen payment Method II. Effective February 1, 1990, there is a limit on the amount that a dialysis supplier may be paid under Method II.

The payment limit for Method II benefits for all forms of dialysis except continuous cycling peritoneal dialysis (CCPD) cannot exceed the median composite rate for hospital-based dialysis facilities. This rate is \$1,974.45 for continuous cycling peritoneal dialysis (CCPD) and \$1,490.85 for all other methods of dialysis. These limits are subject to the usual Medicare Part B deductible and coinsurance amounts.

There are additional requirements for Method II benefits. Each Method II beneficiary that did not choose Method II before February 1, 1990 must certify in writing that he/she deals with a single supplier for all home dialysis equipment and supplies. Beneficiaries who chose Method II before February 1, 1990, are presumed to meet this requirement and need not submit this certification. If a beneficiary chooses Method II on or after February 1, 1990, the beneficiary (or the dialysis facility or the supplier on the beneficiary's behalf) must write the following in Block 8 of the Form CMS-382:

“I certify that I have only one Method II supplier.”

As a Method II home dialysis supplier, in order to be paid Medicare benefits, the supplier must:

- Be the beneficiary's sole supplier for all home dialysis equipment and supplies needed by the beneficiary;
- Accept assignment of Medicare benefits for home dialysis equipment and supplies. If the supplier does not accept assignment, inform your Medicare beneficiaries that the supplier does not accept assignment and that, therefore, Medicare CANNOT pay for his/her home dialysis equipment or supplies;
- Maintain written certifications that there is a written agreement with a Medicare approved dialysis facility under which the facility will furnish all necessary support, backup, and emergency dialysis services for each beneficiary you serve. Support services include, but are not limited to, maintaining the patient's medical record and providing information required by the ESRD network. For each Medicare beneficiaries, there must be an agreement with a dialysis facility that is a reasonable distance from the beneficiary's home. The CMS determines a

reasonable distance by considering such variables as terrain, whether the beneficiary's home is in an urban or rural area, and the usual distances traveled and time in transit by patients in the area when obtaining health services. In cases where an agreement with a support service facility cannot be established that is within a reasonable distance from the patient's home, a written agreement with a support service facility outside of the geographic area of the patient's home must be established. In this situation, the support service facility must establish a written arrangement with a dialysis facility within the beneficiary's geographic region to provide any required in-facility dialysis treatments. In this situation, the support service facility will be responsible for providing all other necessary services for the beneficiary and must provide for the coordination of the patient's care and monitor the patient through frequent visits to the patient's home. The signed agreement with the Method II supplier must stipulate how the support services facility will provide each of the required support services. The written agreement must include documentation to support the arrangement with the local facility for any needed in-facility services. Suppliers may not provide services or submit a claim to Medicare before this agreement is obtained. They need not identify individual beneficiaries.

- Report to the support service dialysis facility within 30 days all items and services that are furnished to the patient so that this information can be recorded by the facility in the medical record; and
- Agree to generally bill once a month and for only one month's quantity of supplies at a time. In the event that a beneficiary becomes a hospital inpatient for at least three days (not counting the day of admission or discharge), suppliers must prorate the following month's supply bills to account for supplies the beneficiary did not use while an inpatient.

### **90.3 - Amount of Payment by the DMERC**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

#### **PM B-01-56, B3-3045.7**

The statute requires that Medicare payment for home dialysis supplies and equipment be determined using the reasonable charge payment methodology. The reasonable charge for an item is generally set at the lowest of the supplier's actual charge for the item, the supplier's customary charge for the service, the prevailing charge in the locality for the item (the prevailing charge may not exceed the 75th percentile of the customary charges of suppliers in the locality), or the inflation indexed charge (IIC). The IIC is the lowest of the customary charge, prevailing charge, or IIC from the previous year, updated by an inflation adjustment factor. However, whenever supplier charges are not available for use in determining reasonable charges, as is usually the case for new HCPCS codes, the initial reasonable charges must be "gap-filled" using other pricing methods.

DMERCs must pay only on an assignment basis for home dialysis supplies and equipment furnished a beneficiary who has selected Method II. The amount of Medicare payment under Method II for home dialysis equipment and supplies may NOT exceed \$1,974.45 for continuous cycling peritoneal dialysis (CCPD) and \$1,490.85 for all other

methods of dialysis. The actual amount paid is based on reasonable charges limited by the monthly cap less the Part B coinsurance and any unmet Part B deductible amounts. (Note, however, that beneficiaries are permitted to have on hand one month's emergency reserve supplies.) This payment may be made to only one supplier per beneficiary.

### **90.3.1 - Billing Instructions for Method II to DMERCs**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

#### **B3-3045.7**

Suppliers of Method II home dialysis supplies and equipment must complete their claims as follows:

- Submit claims to the appropriate DMERC on a monthly basis for one month's worth of supplies and equipment;
- Enter appropriate Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes for each supply for piece of equipment provided, with a "KX" modifier on each line item to signify that the supplier has a valid agreement with an appropriate support service facility; and
- Use modifier "EM" to designate each HCPCS code for emergency reserve supplies. This allows the DMERC to identify situations in which the payment limit for a given month may be exceeded if an emergency reserve is billed for in addition to regular monthly supplies. It also allows DMERCs to ensure that emergency supplies are not purchased more frequently than once in a beneficiary's lifetime per mode of dialysis. Suppliers must bill for all emergency dialysis supplies in the same calendar month.

### **90.3.2 - Home Dialysis Supplies and Equipment HCPCS Codes Used to Bill the DMERC**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

**PM B-01-56, B3-4270 updated 11-16-01(CR 1799)**

#### **A - HCPCS Codes**

Prior to January 1, 2002, suppliers billed for dialysis supplies using codes describing "kits" of supplies. The use of kit codes such as A4820, A4900, A4901, A4905, and A4914 allows suppliers to bill for supply items without separately identifying the supplies that are being furnished to the patient. Effective January 1, 2002, these kit codes were deleted and suppliers are now required to bill for dialysis supplies using existing and newly developed HCPCS codes for individual dialysis items. Refer to the LMRP for the HCPCS codes for dialysis supplies and equipment that are effective for claims received on or after January 1, 2002.

|       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| A4651 | A4652 | A4656 | A4657 | A4660 | A4663 | A4680 | A4690 | A4706 |
| A4707 | A4708 | A4709 | A4712 | A4714 | A4719 | A4720 | A4721 | A4722 |
| A4723 | A4724 | A4725 | A4726 | A4730 | A4736 | A4737 | A4740 | A4750 |

|       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| A4755 | A4760 | A4765 | A4766 | A4770 | A4771 | A4772 | A4773 | A4774 |
| A4801 | A4802 | A4860 | A4870 | A4911 | A4913 | A4918 | A4927 | A4928 |
| A4929 | E1500 | E1510 | E1520 | E1530 | E1540 | E1550 | E1560 | E1570 |
| E1575 | E1580 | E1590 | E1592 | E1594 | E1600 | E1610 | E1615 | E1620 |
| E1625 | E1630 | E1632 | E1635 | E1636 | E1637 | E1638 | E1639 | E1699 |

DMERCs gap-fill reasonable charge amounts for 2002 for all of the applicable codes other than codes A4913 and E1699, the codes used for miscellaneous supplies and equipment that do not fall under any of the other HCPCS codes. The gap-filled amounts should be established using price lists in effect as of December 31, 2000 if available. These gap-filled payment amounts will apply to all claims with dates of service from January 1, 2002, through December 31, 2002.

Codes A4650 - A4927 and E1510 - E1702 may be used only for supplies and equipment relating to home dialysis. In particular, items not related to dialysis should not be included in the supply kit codes (A4820, A4900, A4901, A4905) or listed in the miscellaneous codes (A4910, A4913, E1699). Conversely, supplies and equipment relating to home dialysis should not be billed using other HCPCS codes.

Dialysis supply kits (A4820, A4900, A4901, A4905) billed by an individual supplier must contain the same type and quantity of supplies each time that it is billed. One unit of service would represent the typical amount of supplies needed for one month of dialysis. The content of the kit may not vary from patient to patient or in a single patient from month to month unless the 52 modifier is used (see below). If more than this typical amount of supplies is needed in one month, the excess supplies should be billed using other dialysis supply codes. If significantly less than the usual amount is needed for 1 month, the 52 modifier should be added to the code and the submitted charge reduced accordingly. A listing of the components of each kit billed by a supplier must be available for review by the DMERC.

For items before January 1, 2002, dialysis solutions (A4700, A4705) should not be included in the supply kit but should be separately billed. One unit of service for these codes is for one liter of dialysis solution.

For items before January 1, 2002, items not included in kits must be billed separately, using either a specific code (A4650 - A4927) or miscellaneous code (A4910, A4913, E1699).

Code A4901 and/or E1594 should be billed for each month that the patient receives CCPD.

An EM modifier should be added to a dialysis supply code when it represents emergency reserve supplies over and above the typical monthly amount.

## **B - Modifiers**

Method II suppliers must maintain documentation to support the existence of a written agreement with a Medicare certified support service facility within a reasonable distance from the beneficiary's home.

Effective July 1, 2002, suppliers must use "KX" modifier on the line item level for all Method II home dialysis claims to indicate that they have this documentation on file, and must provide it to the DMERC upon request. As of July 1, 2002, DMERCs must front end reject any Method II claims that do not have the "KX" modifier at the line level. The supplier may correct and resubmit the claim with the appropriate modifier. DMERCs and the shared systems must make all systems changes necessary to reject Method II claims that do not have the "KX" modifier.

The following listed modifiers are frequently used to identify the service/charges billed for Dialysis Supplies.

CC-Procedure code change - Used by the carrier when the procedure code submitted was changed either for administrative reasons or because an incorrect procedure code was filed. Do not use this modifier when filing claims to Palmetto GBA.

EJ-Subsequent Claim (for Erythropoietin Alpha-EPO injection only)

EM-Emergency reserve supply [for End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) benefit only]

KY-Specific requirements found in the Documentation section of the Medical Policy have been met and evidence of this is available in the supplier's record. Effective July 1, 2002, suppliers must use the "KY" modifier on the line item level for all Method II home dialysis claims.

NU-New Equipment - Used when purchasing new equipment.

RR-Initial Rental - Rental (use the -RR modifier when DME is to be rented).

UE-Used durable medical equipment

ZU-Advance notice of possible medical necessity denial on file (this modifier will be discontinued with the implementation of HIPAA)

ZY-Potentially noncovered item or service billed for denial or at the beneficiary's request (not to be used for medical necessity denials) (this modifier will be discontinued with the implementation of HIPAA)

### **90.3.3 - DMERC Claims Processing Instructions**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

#### **B3-3045.7.C**

The monthly limit applies to all home dialysis supplies and equipment furnished to the beneficiary. Since more than one supply or piece of equipment may be furnished for a given month, apply the limit to the supplies in the order in which they are billed by the sole supplier.

If a claim identifies the beneficiary as a CCPD patient, apply the higher monthly limit.

If two different suppliers submit bills for the same month for the same beneficiary, DMERCs pay only the first supplier that submits a bill.

DMERCs must deny payment for home dialysis supplies and equipment if any of the following conditions are met:

- The supplier has not accepted assignment;
- The supplies were furnished by a second supplier;
- The monthly limit has been paid;
- The beneficiary filed the claim;
- The beneficiary has elected Method I for the date of service on the claim;
- The DMERC finds that the supplier does not have a valid written agreement with a support service facility, or
- The supplier did not use the “KX” modifier on each line item to indicate that it has a valid written backup agreement with a support service facility.

## **90.4 - Equipment and Equipment Related Services Provided to Direct Dealing Beneficiary**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

Under the direct dealing method the beneficiary may deal directly with suppliers and make his or her own arrangements for securing the necessary supplies and equipment or deal with the facility.

The direct dealing patient has the choice of buying or renting (leasing) the equipment with the exception of purchased items costing \$120 or less, which may be reimbursed in a single payment. DMERCs pay for both rented and purchased equipment in monthly installments. Installment payments are made regardless of whether the patient pays for purchased equipment in a lump sum or in installments. The payment rate approximates the monthly rental fee for similar equipment until either its share of the allowed purchase price is paid, or until the equipment is no longer medically necessary, whichever comes first.

Medicare will pay 80 percent of the allowed amount as long as the equipment is medically necessary. When payments stop because the beneficiary's condition has changed and the equipment is no longer necessary, the beneficiary is responsible for the remaining charges. Similarly, when payments stop because the beneficiary dies, his estate is responsible for the remaining charges. A beneficiary may sell or otherwise dispose of purchased equipment for which he/she has no further use. If, after disposal of such equipment, there is again medical need for similar equipment, Medicare can pay for the rental or purchase of that equipment.

Payment can also be made for the installation, delivery, repair, maintenance, or replacement of home dialysis equipment. This payment also includes the costs of necessary supply items needed to effectively perform the dialysis. See the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual Chapter 11, for related coverage rules.

When covered, these items are reimbursed in a lump sum.

## **90.5 - Method II Support Services Billed to the Intermediary by the Facility**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

**A3-3644.3.C, A3-3644.3.D, PRM-1-2740.1, PRM-1-2743.1**

In addition to the supplier billing the DMERC for equipment and supplies, the dialysis facility may bill the FI for home dialysis support services. Those services include, but are not limited to:

- Surveillance of the patient's home adaptation, including provisions for visits to the home in accordance with a written plan prepared and periodically reviewed by a team that includes the patient's physician and other professionals familiar with the patient's condition;
- Furnishing dialysis-related emergency services;
- Consultation for the patient with a qualified social worker and a qualified dietician;
- Maintaining a record-keeping system which assures continuity of care;
- Maintaining and submitting all required documentation to the ESRD network;
- Assuring that the water supply is of the appropriate quality;
- Assuring that the appropriate supplies are ordered on an ongoing basis;
- Arranging for the provision of all ESRD related laboratory tests;
- Testing and appropriate treatment of water used in dialysis;
- Monitoring the functioning of dialysis equipment;
- All other necessary dialysis services as required under the ESRD conditions for coverage; and
- Since home dialysis support services include maintaining a medical record for each home dialysis patient, the Method II supplier must report to the support service dialysis facility within 30 days all items and services that it furnished to the patient so that the facility can record this information in the patient's medical record.

Support services specifically applicable to home CAPD patients must be furnished and billed by the sponsoring CAPD certified facility. These include, but are not limited to:

- Changing the connecting tube (also referred to as an "administration set");
- Watching the patient perform CAPD and assuring that it is done correctly. This includes reviewing for the patient any aspects of the technique he/she may have forgotten or informing the patient of modifications in apparatus or technique;
- Documenting whether the patient has or has had peritonitis that requires physician intervention or hospitalization (unless there is evidence of peritonitis, a culture for peritonitis is not necessary); and

- Inspecting the catheter site.

Each of the CAPD support services may be covered and reimbursed routinely at a frequency of once per month. Any support services furnished in excess of this frequency must be documented for medical necessity. For example, the patient may contract peritonitis and require an unscheduled visit.

Support services are paid on a reasonable charge basis to independent facilities and a reasonable cost basis to hospital-based facilities. A reasonable cost determination must be made for each individual support service furnished to home CAPD patients. Seventy-five dollars (\$75) is used as a guideline for the total of the reasonable costs for all support services furnished to each home CAPD patient in a month except changing the connecting tube (also referred to as the “administration set”). Lab services and supplies are not included. The connecting tube change may be reimbursed at an additional amount, which generally should not exceed \$15. This amount includes both the supplies and the personnel service required. These guidelines are intended to reflect staff time often spent helping the patient in ways that cannot be directly billed, e.g., consulting with the patient over the phone.

## **90.5.1 - Billable UB-92 Revenue Codes Under Method II**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

### **A3-3644.3.E, RDF-321**

Revenue codes that may be billed for Method II beneficiaries by an ESRD facility are:

#### **Support Services**

0825 - Hemodialysis - Support Services - HEMO/HOME/SUPSERV

0835- Peritoneal Dialysis - Support Services - PERTNL/HOME/SUPSERV

0845 - Continuous Ambulatory Peritoneal Dialysis (CAPD) - Support Services - CAPD/HOME/SUPSERV

0855 - Continuous Cycling Peritoneal Dialysis (CCPD) - Support Services - CCPD/HOME/SUPSERV

#### **25X - Pharmacy**

The description for pharmacy is - charges for medication produced, manufactured, packaged, controlled, assayed, dispensed and distributed under the direction of a licensed pharmacist.

Drugs and biologicals such as blood may be covered in the home dialysis setting only if the “incident to a physician’s services” criteria are met. Normally, a physician is not in the patient’s home when the drugs or biologicals are administered, and therefore, generally drugs and biologicals are not covered in the home setting. This includes blood plasma, other components of blood, and IV solutions.

This category should be used only for non-routine drugs and biologicals since routine drugs and biologicals are included in the composite rate under Method I and are part of home dialysis supplies under Method II. They must be documented for medical necessity.

The administration of drugs and biologicals (both staff time and supplies are covered and billed as revenue code 0259).

0 - General Classification - PHARMACY

1 - Generic Drugs - DRUGS/GENERIC

2 - Nongeneric Drugs - DRUGS/NONGENERIC

4 - Drugs Incident to Other Diagnostic Services - DRUGS/INCIDENT ODX

5 - Drugs Incident to Radiology - DRUGS/INCIDENT RAD 8 - IV Solutions - IV SOLUTIONS

9 - Other Pharmacy- DRUGS/OTHER

### **027X - Medical/Surgical Supplies**

Charges for supply items required for patient care.

Rationale: Additional breakdowns are provided for items that hospitals may wish to identify because of internal or third party payer requirements.

### **030X - Laboratory**

Charges for the performance of diagnostic and routine clinical laboratory tests.

Rationale: A breakdown of the major areas in the laboratory is provided in order to meet hospital needs or third party billing requirements.

3 - Renal Patient (Home) - LAB/RENAL HOME

4 - Non-routine Dialysis - LAB/NR DIALYSIS

### **031X - Laboratory Pathological**

Charges for diagnostic laboratory tests on tissues and culture.

Rationale: A breakdown of the major areas that providers may wish to identify is provided.

0 - General Classification - PATHOLOGY LAB or (PATH LAB)

1 - Cytology - PATHOL/CYTOLOGY

2 - Histology - PATHOL/HYSTOL

4 - Biopsy - PATHOL/BIOPSY

9 - Other - PATHOL/OTHER

### **032X - Radiology - Diagnostic**

Charges for diagnostic radiology services provided for the examination and care of patients. Includes: taking, processing, examining and interpreting radiographs and fluorographs.

Rationale: A breakdown is provided of the major areas and procedures that individual providers or third party payers may wish to identify.

0 - General Classification - DX X-RAY

4 - Chest X-Ray - DX X-RAY/CHEST

9 - Other - DX X-RAY/OTHER

### **038X - Blood**

Rationale: Charges for blood must be separately identified for private payer purposes.

0 - General Classification (Washed red blood cells)- BLOOD

1 - Packed Red Cells - BLOOD/PKD RED

2 - Whole Blood - BLOOD/WHOLE

3 - Blood Plasma - BLOOD/PLASMA

4 - Blood Platelets - BLOOD/PLATELETS

5 - Blood Leucocytes - BLOOD/LEUCOCYTES

6 - Blood - Other Components - BLOOD/OTHER COMP

7 - Blood - Other Derivatives - BLOOD/ OTHER DER (Cryoprecipitates)

9 - Other Blood (Describe) - BLOOD /OTHER

### **039X - Blood Storage and Processing**

Charges for the storage and processing of whole blood.

0 - General Classification - BLOOD/STOR-PROC

1 - Blood Administration - BLOOD/ADMIN.

9 - Other Blood Storage & Processing - BLOOD/OTHER STOR

### **063X - Erythropoietin (EPO)**

4 - Erythropoietin (EPO) administration under 10,000 units per administration.

5 - Erythropoietin (EPO) administration of 10,000 units or more per administration.

### **073X - EKG/ECG (Electrocardiogram)**

Charges for operation of specialized equipment to record electromotive variations in action of the heart muscle on an electrocardiograph for diagnosis of heart ailments.

0 - General Classifications - EKG/ECG

1 - Holter Monitor - Holter Mont

9 - Other EKG/ECG - Other EKG-ECG

## **90.5.1.1 - Unbillable UB-92 Revenue Codes Under Method II**

(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)

### **A3-3644.3.E**

The facility bills the FI using UB-92 (Form CMS-1450) for support services and back up dialysis and emergency services only. Bills for supplies and equipment are billed to the

DMERC on the 1500. Therefore, the following revenue codes may not be used on Method II bills:

0822 Hemodialysis - Home Supplies

0823 Hemodialysis - Home Equipment

0832 Peritoneal Dialysis - Home Supplies

0833 Peritoneal Dialysis - Home Equipment

0842 CAPD - Home Supplies

0852 CCPD - Home Supplies

0853 CCPD - Home Equipment

## **100 - Dialysis Sessions Furnished to Patients Who are Traveling**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

**PRM-1-2713, RO-2 3440.3, A3-3169.3, RDF-245.2.E**

### **100.1 - Traveling Patients Who Are Normally In-Facility Dialysis Patients**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

#### **PR 12713.1**

##### **A. Dialysis at Another Facility**

All in-facility dialysis treatments furnished by and in a facility are billed by and paid to that facility at its composite rate. This is true even if the patient is only temporary.

##### **B. Temporary Home Dialysis**

Patients who normally dialyze in a facility may wish to dialyze temporarily as home dialysis patients while they travel or vacation. In this situation, benefits may be paid only under Method I. If the patient is not normally a home dialysis patient and has no intention of becoming one except for a temporary period, e.g., a vacation, then the patient does not complete Form CMS-382, Beneficiary Selection Form. Instead, the patient informs his/her facility:

- He/she will be in travel status, and
- The dates in travel status.

The facility is responsible for obtaining this information from the patient and entering it in the “remarks” section of any claims the facility submits for the patient. The facility indicates “traveling patient, temporary Method I” as well as the dates of travel.

#### **1. Temporary Method I**

The patient’s regular facility bills its composite rate and no other party submits bills to the program. All suppliers must seek payment from the facility. The facility bills these services as though the patient were a home dialysis patient (e.g., the appropriate revenue

code in item 51, on the Form CMS-1450). The FI processes these bills outside the usual system because the patient does not file a Form CMS-382 selection form.

## **2. Self-Care Dialysis Training**

Training services furnished to temporary home dialysis patients are covered and paid at the training rate subject to the usual rules for reimbursement of training services. Since the patient does not expect to remain on home dialysis, he/she should understand that he/she is expected to perform in-facility dialysis when he/she returns to the facility.

Under this temporary Method I arrangement, the Regional Office (RO) must coordinate with the appropriate FI to override the normal check in the system that prevents payment of any home dialysis items or services on behalf of a patient who has not filed a Form CMS-382 selection form.

## **100.2 - Traveling Patients Who are Normally Home Dialysis**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

**PRM-1-2713.2, B3-4271.1, B3-4272**

### **A. Dialysis at Another Facility**

All in-facility dialysis treatments furnished by and in a facility are billed by and paid to that facility. This is true even if the patient is only temporary.

### **B. Home Dialysis**

The manner of payment depends upon which method of reimbursement the home patient has chosen.

#### **1. Method I (Composite Rate)**

If the patient travels from place to place and never spends a continuous 30 days at a single facility, then all facilities or suppliers which furnish any home dialysis items or services to the patient, must seek payment from the patient's home town facility. The home town facility bills the program its composite rate for all home dialysis treatments the patient performs.

If the patient spends 30 days or more at a single facility away from his/her home town facility:

- The two facilities may reach an agreement between them as to which facility will bill the program the composite rate. The facility that does not bill the composite rate is paid by the other facility during this period of time. The temporary facility may bill the program directly only for items and services that it furnishes to a patient after a patient has been under its care for 30 days.

If the facility that bills the composite rate is the temporary facility, then it indicates on its claim "temporary patient," and the name and address of the patient's home town facility. The FI receiving this claim must send a copy of the MSN to the FI servicing the home town facility in order to assure that the home town facility is not also paid during this time.

If the two facilities cannot reach an agreement as to which one will bill the program, then after the 30-day waiting period the temporary facility bills its FI; the home town facility does not bill. The procedure outlined for completing and processing the claim must be followed.

## **2. Method II (Direct Dealing)**

Under Method II, dialysis facilities may bill or be paid by the program only for home dialysis support services; not equipment or supplies.

The patient may choose to purchase the equipment under Method II, but the program will make installment payments only for the temporary period. No lump sum purchase payment may be authorized.

Patients who usually receive dialysis in an ESRD facility may become home dialysis patients temporarily because they are traveling. In this situation, the patient may choose only payment Method I. DMERCs must not pay any of these claims. Facilities must submit all of their claims to their FIs. If the patient is not normally a home dialysis patient, and has no intention of becoming one except for a temporary period; e.g., a vacation, then the patient does not complete Form CMS-382, Beneficiary Selection Form.

Under either Method I or II, the RO must coordinate with the appropriate contractor (FI or carrier as the case may be) to override the normal check in the system that prevents payment of any home dialysis items or services on behalf of a patient who has not filed a Form CMS-382 selection form.

These special procedures may be followed only for items and services furnished during the precise period the patient is traveling away from home.

## **100.3 - Physician's Services Furnished to a Dialysis Patient Away From Home or Usual Facility**

(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)

### **B3-4272.4**

When a dialysis patient whose attending physician receives a monthly payment receives maintenance dialysis services of any kind outside the usual setting from any physician who is neither the attending physician nor that physician's substitute, the following procedures apply:

- The physician who furnished the service submits a claim to the local carrier of jurisdiction;
- The carrier will process the claim and send an MSN to the patient;
- The carrier that has jurisdiction over the usual dialysis setting adjusts the MCP to the usual attending physician to account for the time the patient was absent from the usual dialysis setting.
- The carrier that has jurisdiction over the usual dialysis setting adjusts the MCP to the usual attending physician per [§140.3.E](#) below to account for the time the patient was absent from the usual dialysis setting.

Carriers must notify physicians that claims for services furnished to temporary patients must be identified as a claim for a temporary patient. The physician must indicate “temporary patient” under element 24C of the Form CMS-1500.

## **110 - Reduction in Medicare Program Payment to Fund ESRD Networks**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

**A3-3644.C.1, A3-3644.C.3, PRM-1-2706.2**

### **A. General**

Section 9335(j) of OBRA 1986 requires the Secretary to reduce the amount of each composite rate payment for each treatment by 50 cents and to allocate these amounts to ESRD network activities. This applies to all dialysis treatments furnished on or after January 1, 1987 for all treatment modalities, including training treatments. All Medicare hospital-based and independent ESRD facilities paid the composite rate are affected.

### **B. Calculating the Reduction**

Intermediaries apply a reduction of 50 cents per treatment on each claim from the amount paid to ESRD facilities for all treatments furnished on or after January 1, 1987. For example, if a facility’s composite rate payment is \$120, Medicare pays the renal facility \$95.50 per treatment ( $\$120 \times 80\% - \$0.50$ ). The 50-cent reduction is also applicable to modes of dialysis other than hemodialysis (including training treatments). The facility’s weekly composite rate payment is reduced by \$1.50 for CAPD or continuous CCPD. Where there is less than a week of CCPD or CAPD treatment, the \$1.50 is prorated. For peritoneal dialysis furnished in sessions of greater than 20 or 30 hours per treatment, the 50-cent reduction is multiplied times 1.5 or 3 depending upon the length of the treatment.

The reduction amount is reported in the Provider Statistics and Reimbursement Report (PS&R) and CWF using value code 71 to identify monies withheld to fund ESRD networks.

The Medicare payment reduction allocated toward funding the ESRD networks for the individual claims will be indicated on the remittance record to the facility.

Facilities may not claim the 50-cent reduction as an expense on their Medicare cost reports.

### **C. Application of ESRD Network Funding to MSP Claims**

The ESRD offset for network funding on MSP claims will be applied as follows:

- Where another payer, primary to Medicare, pays the claim in full, no ESRD offset is applicable;
- Where another payer, primary to Medicare, makes a partial payment, the ESRD offset is deducted for each treatment as described in subsection C2 from the Medicare secondary payment; and
- Where the ESRD offset amount is greater than the secondary payment amount, the entire Medicare secondary payment amount is applied towards the ESRD network funding. No Medicare secondary payment is made to the facility in this situation

and no further ESRD offset is applicable. No additional ESRD offset for treatments on this claim will be made against other payments to the facility on the same remittance or on future payments for the same beneficiary.

## **120 - Renal Transplantation and Related Services**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

### **PRM-1-2770**

Renal transplantation is a principal form of treatment available to patients with end-stage renal disease. See Medicare Provider Reimbursement Manual, Part I, §§2771, for a description of related payment policies.

### **120.1 - Payment for Immunosuppressive Drugs Furnished to Transplant Patients**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

#### **PRM-1-2711.5, B3-4471, AB-01-10**

##### **A. General**

Effective January 1, 1987, Medicare pays for FDA approved self-administered immunosuppressive drugs. Generally, under this benefit, payment is made for self-administered immunosuppressive drugs that are specifically labeled and approved for marketing as such by the FDA, as well as those prescription drugs, such as prednisone, that are used in conjunction with immunosuppressive drugs as part of a therapeutic regimen reflected in FDA approved labeling for immunosuppressive drugs. This benefit is subject to the Part B deductible and coinsurance provision. There is no time limitation on the coverage of these drugs; however, if a beneficiary loses Medicare coverage as a result of the transplant, the drugs are no longer covered. When the beneficiary reaches the age of 65 and becomes entitled, that person can have the drugs covered again. The hospital pharmacy must ask the physician to furnish the patient with a non-refillable 30-day prescription for the immunosuppressive drugs. This is because the dosage of these drugs frequently diminishes over a period of time, and it is not uncommon for the physician to change the prescription from one drug to another because of the patient's needs. Also, these drugs are expensive, and the coinsurance liability on unused drugs could be a financial burden to the beneficiary. Unless there are special circumstances, the FI and carrier do not consider a supply of drugs in excess of 30 days to be reasonable and necessary and limits payment accordingly.

##### **B. Payment**

Payment is made on a reasonable cost basis if the beneficiary is the outpatient of a participating hospital. In all other cases, payment is made on an allowable charge basis.

##### **C. FDA Approved Drugs**

Some of the most commonly prescribed immunosuppressive drugs are:

- Sandimmune (cyclosporine), Sandoz Pharmaceutical (oral or parenteral),
- Imuran (azathioprine), Burroughs Wellcome Vial (oral),

- Atgam (antithymocyte/globulin), Upjohn (parenteral); and
- Orthoclone OKT3 (muromonab - CD3) Ortho Pharmaceutical (parenteral).

Also covered are prescription drugs used in conjunction with immunosuppressive drugs as part of a therapeutic regimen reflected in FDA approved labeling for immunosuppressive drugs.

The payment for the drug is limited to the cost of the most frequently administered dosage of the drug (adjusted for medical factors as determined by the physician).

Consult such sources as the Drug Topics Red Book, American Druggists Blue Book, and Medispan, realizing that substantial discounts are available.

## **130 - Physicians and Supplier (Nonfacility) Billing for ESRD Services - General**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

### **B3-4270 updated with Transmittal 1729**

Payment for renal-related physicians' services to ESRD patients is made in either of the following ways:

- Under the Monthly Capitation Payment (MCP) (see [§140](#) below for an explanation of the MCP); or
- Using the daily codes for ESRD services (CPT codes 90922-90925) with units that represent the number of days services were furnished.
- Under the Initial method (IM)

The carrier receives bills (Form CMS--1500 or electronic equivalent) from physicians for services furnished ESRD beneficiaries. DMERCs receive bills for equipment and supplies for Method II beneficiaries. Intermediaries receive bills from ESRD facilities. Lab bills from CLIA certified independent dialysis facilities were billed to the carrier before September 1, 1997, and to the FI beginning on that date. Other certified labs continue to bill the carrier.

## **130.1 - Initial Method for Physician's Services to Maintenance Dialysis Patients**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

### **B3-4275, B3-4275.1, B3-4275.2, PRM-1-2715, PRM-1-2715.1, PRM-1-2715.2**

Under the Initial Method (IM), do not pay for physician's routine professional dialysis services. Instead, the dialysis facility's FI pays the dialysis facility for them as part of the facility's composite rate. Physician's professional services that are not routine professional dialysis services are billed to the contractor and paid in the same way as any other Medicare covered physician professional service.

**1 - For the physician to be paid under the IM, the following requirements must be met:**

All physicians of the facility must choose the IM with respect to all of the patients treated at the facility and all of the facility's Method I home dialysis patients. (See [§70.1](#) for a description of Method I). All of the facility's physicians must file a written statement with their carrier and the facility's FI to this effect. For example:

The physicians practicing at \_\_\_\_\_ dialysis facility are listed below. The signature of each physician indicates the physician's election to be paid for their routine professional dialysis services under the Initial Method. This election is effective for services furnished beginning with the second month after the month in which this statement is filed with the carrier(s) and the facility's intermediary.

This written statement must be signed and dated by each physician.

**2 - The physician may bill the carrier only those physician's professional services that are not routine professional dialysis services. (See paragraph 3 below).**

The election of the IM is effective for services furnished beginning with the second calendar month after the month in which all the physicians of a facility elect it. A physician may terminate the election by written notice to the carrier and to the facility's FI that the physician thereby terminates the IM. If the carrier and the FI receive the termination notice on or before November 1, it is effective the following January 1. If the carrier or the FI receives it after November 1, it is effective January 1 of the second year after the calendar year in which the notice of termination is received. Note that if the IM is terminated by one physician, it is thereby terminated for all physicians at the same facility with respect to the patients treated through that facility.

**3 - Definitions**

**A - Administrative Services**

Physician services that are differentiated from routine professional services and other physician services. They include supervision, as described in the definition of "supervision of staff," are not related directly to the care of an individual patient and are supportive of the facility as a whole and of benefit to patients in general. Examples of administrative services include supervision of staff, staff training, participation in staff conferences and in the management of the facility, and advising staff on the procurement of supplies.

**B - Dialysis Session**

The period of time that begins when the patient arrives at the facility and ends when the patient departs from the facility. In the case of home dialysis, the period begins when the patient prepares for dialysis and generally ends when the patient is disconnected from the machine. In this context, a dialysis facility includes only those parts of the building used as a facility. It does not include any areas used as a physician's private office.

### **C - Medical Direction**

Routine professional service that entails substantial direct involvement and the physical presence of the physician in the delivery of services directly to the patient.

### **D - Routine Professional Services**

Physicians' services furnished during a dialysis session and all services listed under "Types of routine professional services" that:

- Are personally furnished by a physician to an individual patient.
- Contribute directly to the diagnosis or treatment of an individual patient.
- Ordinarily must be performed by a physician.

### **E - Supervision of Staff**

Administrative services that do not necessarily require the physician to be present at the dialysis session. It is a general activity primarily concerned with monitoring performance of and giving guidance to other health care personnel (such as nurses and dialysis technicians) who deliver services to patients.

### **F - Types of Routine Professional Services**

Routine professional services include at least the following services when medically appropriate:

- Visits to the patient during dialysis, and in conjunction with review of laboratory test results,
- Nurses' notes and any other medical documentation, as a basis for:
  - Adjustment of the patient's medication, diet or the dialysis procedure;
  - Prescription of medical supplies; and
  - Evaluation of the patient's psychosocial status and the appropriateness of the modality,
  - Medical direction of staff in delivering services to a patient during a dialysis session, and
  - Pre-dialysis and post-dialysis examinations or examinations that could have been furnished on a pre-dialysis or post-dialysis basis.

## **140 - Monthly Capitation Payment Method for Physicians' Services Furnished to Patients on Maintenance Dialysis**

(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)

**B3-15060, B3-15060.1, B3-15060.2, B3-15060.3, B3-15060.4, B3-15060.5, B3-15350,  
B3-2230.3, B3-2230.6, B3-4272, B3-4272.1, B3-4272.2**

The monthly capitation payment is a payment for most dialysis-related physician services furnished to Medicare ESRD patients is through the monthly capitation payment (MCP).

The same monthly amount is paid to the physician for each patient supervised regardless of whether the patient dialyzes at home or as an outpatient in an approved ESRD facility. The Medicare program pays 80 percent of the MCP after the beneficiary's Part B deductible is met. The beneficiary is responsible for the Part B deductible amounts and the 20 percent coinsurance.

## **140.1 - Services Included in Monthly Capitation Payment**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

### **B3-4272.1**

The following physician services are included in the MCP:

- Assessment of the need for a specified diet and the need for nutritional supplementation for the control of chronic renal failure. Specification of the quantity of total protein, high biologic protein, sodium, potassium, and amount of fluids to be allowed during a given time period. For diabetic patients with chronic renal failure, the prescription usually specifies the number of calories in the diet.
- Assessment of which mode(s) of chronic dialysis (types of hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis) are suitable for a given patient and recommendation of the type(s) of therapy for a given patient.
- Assessment and determination of which type of dialysis access is best suited for a given patient and arrangement for creation of dialysis access.
- Assessment of whether the patient meets preliminary criteria as a renal transplant candidate and presentation of this assessment to the patient and family.
- Prescription of the parameters of intradialytic management. For chronic hemodialysis therapies, this includes the type of dialysis access, the type and amount of anticoagulant to be employed, blood flow rates, dialysate flow rate, ultrafiltration rate, dialysate temperature, type of dialysate (acetate versus bicarbonate) and composition of the electrolytes in the dialysate, size of hemodialyzer (surface area) and composition of the dialyzer membrane (conventional versus high flux), duration and frequency of treatments, the type and frequency of measuring indices of clearance, and intradialytic medications to be administered. For chronic peritoneal dialysis therapies, this includes the type of peritoneal dialysis, the volume of dialysate, concentration of dextrose in the dialysate, electrolyte composition of the dialysate, duration of each exchange, and addition of medication to the dialysate, such as heparin, and the type and frequency of measuring indices of clearance. For diabetics, the quantity of insulin to be added to each exchange is prescribed.
- Assessment of whether the patient has significant renal failure-related anemia, determination of the etiology(ies) for the anemia based on diagnostic tests, and prescription of therapy for correction of the anemia, such as vitamins, oral or parenteral iron, and hormonal therapy such as erythropoietin.
- Assessment of whether the patient has hyperparathyroidism and/or renal osteodystrophy secondary to chronic renal failure and prescription of appropriate therapy, such as calcium and phosphate binders for control of hyperphosphatemia.

Based upon assessment of parathormone levels, serum calcium levels, and evaluation for the presence of metabolic bone disease, the physician determines whether oral or parenteral therapy with vitamin D or its analogs is indicated and prescribes the appropriate therapy. Based upon assessment and diagnosis of bone disease, the physician may prescribe specific chelation therapy with deferoxamine and the use of hemoperfusion for removal of aluminum and the chelation.

- Assessment of whether the patient has dialysis-related arthropathy or neuropathy and adjustment of the patient's prescription accordingly. Referral of the patient for any additional needed specialist evaluation and management of these end-organ problems.
- Assessment of whether the patient has fluid overload resulting from renal failure and establishment of an estimated "ideal (dry) weight." The physician determines the need for fluid removal independent of the dialysis prescription and implements these measures when indicated.
- Determination of the need for and prescription of antihypertensive medications and their timing relative to dialysis when the patient is hypertensive in spite of correction of fluid overload.
- Periodic review of the dialysis records to ascertain whether the patient is receiving the prescribed amount of dialysis and ordering of indices of clearance, such as urea kinetics, in order to ascertain whether the dialysis prescription is producing adequate dialysis. If the indices of clearance suggest that the prescription requires alteration, the physician orders changes in the hemodialysis prescription, such as blood flow rate, dialyzer surface area, dialysis frequency, and/or dialysis duration (length of treatment). For peritoneal dialysis patients, the physician may order changes in the volume of dialysate, dextrose concentration of the dialysate, and duration of the exchanges.
- Periodic visits to the patient during dialysis to ascertain whether the dialysis is working well and whether the patient is tolerating the procedure well (physiologically and psychologically). During these visits, the physician determines whether alteration in any aspect of a given patient's prescription is indicated, such as changes in the estimate of the patient's dry weight. Review of the treatment with the nurse or technician performing the therapy is also included. The frequency of these visits will vary depending upon the patient's medical status, complicating conditions, and other determinants.
- Performance of periodic physical assessments, based upon the patient's clinical stability, in order to determine the necessity for alterations in various aspects of the patient's prescription. Similarly, the physician reviews the results of periodic laboratory testing in order to determine the need for alterations in the patient's prescription, such as changes in the amount and timing of phosphate binders or dose of erythropoietin.
- Periodic assessment of the adequacy and function of the patient's dialysis access appropriate tests and antibiotic therapy.
- Interpretations of the following tests:

- o Bone mineral density studies (CPT codes 76070, 76075, 78350, and 78351);
- o Noninvasive vascular diagnostic studies of hemodialysis access (CPT codes 93925, 93926, 93930, 93931, and 93990);
- o Nerve conduction studies (CPT codes 95900, 95903, 95904, 95925, 95926, 95927, 95934, 95935, and 95936);
- o Electromyography studies (CPT codes 95860, 95861, 95863, 95864, 95867, 95867, 95869, and 95872).
- Periodic review and update of the patient's short-term and long-term care plans with staff.
- Coordination and direction of the care of patients by other professional staff, such as dietitians and social workers.
- Certification of the need for items and services such as durable medical equipment and home health care services. Care plan oversight services described by CPT code 99375 are included in the MCP and may not be separately reported.

## **140.2 - Services Excluded from Monthly Capitation Payment**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

### **B3-4272**

The following physician services furnished to the physician's ESRD patients are excluded from the MCP and should be paid in accordance with the physician fee schedule:

1. Administration of hepatitis B vaccine.
2. Surgical services such as:
  - Temporary or permanent hemodialysis catheter placement;
  - Temporary or permanent peritoneal dialysis catheter placement;
  - Repair of existing dialysis accesses;
  - Placement of catheter(s) for thrombolytic therapy;
  - Thrombolytic therapy (systemic, regional, or access catheter only; hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis);
  - Thrombectomy of clotted cannula;
  - Arthrocentesis;
  - Bone marrow aspiration; and
  - Bone marrow biopsy.
3. Interpretation of tests that have a professional component such as:
  - Electrocardiograms (12 lead, Holter monitor, stress tests, etc.);
  - Echocardiograms;

- 24-hour blood pressure monitor;
  - Biopsies; and
  - Spirometry and complete pulmonary function tests.
4. Complete evaluation for renal transplantation. While the physician assessment of whether the patient meets preliminary criteria as a renal transplant candidate is included under the MCP, the complete evaluation for renal transplantation is excluded from the MCP
  5. Evaluation of potential living transplant donors.
  6. The training of patients to perform home hemodialysis, self hemodialysis, and the various forms of self peritoneal dialysis.
  7. Non-renal related physician's services. These services may be furnished by the physician providing renal care or by another physician. They may not be incidental to services furnished during a dialysis session or office visit necessitated by the renal condition. The physician must provide documentation that the illness is not related to the renal condition and that the added visits are required. The contractor's medical staff determines whether additional reimbursement is warranted for treatment of the unrelated illness. For example, the medical management of diabetes mellitus that is not related to the dialysis or furnished during a dialysis session is excluded.
  8. Covered physician services furnished to hospital inpatients, including services related to inpatient dialysis, by a physician who elects not to continue to receive the MCP during the period of inpatient stay. In these cases, the physician receives a prorated portion of the MCP for that month.
  9. All physician services that antedate the initiation of outpatient dialysis.
  10. Covered physician services furnished by another physician when the patient is not available to receive the outpatient services as usual; for example, when the patient is traveling out of town.

### **140.3 - Data Elements Required on Claim for Monthly Capitation Payment**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

#### **B3-4272.2**

- A. Elements 1 through 13 of the Form CMS-1500 are completed in accordance with the regular instructions
- B. Elements 14 through 20 of the Form CMS-1500 are omitted.
- C. Element 21 must contain the name and address of the facility involved with the patient's maintenance care or training.
- D. Element 23A must show the diagnosis, and whether the patient is in training for self-dialysis. Element 23B is left blank.
- E. Element 24A must show the dates of service during the month that are included in the MCP. The period includes:

- The full month if the patient was dialyzed in the usual setting; or
  - The full month if the patient was an inpatient for part of the month and the attending physician does not elect to bill separately for inpatient services. In this case, the MCP covers all services furnished during the inpatient stay. The physician may not bill fee-for-service for any inpatient care; or
  - The full month less the days when the patient was not in the care of the attending physician (or the physician's substitute), or when the attending physician chooses to bill separately for services furnished outside of the usual setting.
- F. Element 24C must show the initials "MCP" as the indicator needed to identify the claim as a request for the MCP.
- G. The remainder of the Form CMS-1500 is completed in accordance with the general instructions.

## **140.4 - Controlling Claims Paid Under the Monthly Capitation Payment Method**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

### **B3-4272.3**

Carriers must be able to identify dialysis patient history records and physicians who furnish services related to dialysis.

In processing claims reimbursed under this method, carriers must assure that:

- Only one monthly payment is made for any renal disease patient per month;
- Duplicate charges billed as a duplicate MCP or as separate charges for services covered by the monthly payment are denied;
- Concurrent services by another physician that are covered in the attending physician's MCP are covered and reimbursed appropriately only for services not included in the MCP;
- That the days in which the patient was not maintained in the usual setting per [§140.3.E](#) above are excluded from the MCP. The MCP is prorated at 1/30th the MCP for each day of absence from the usual setting.

**EXAMPLE 1** - Dr. Smith claims a reduced MCP to account for 10 days when the patient was in the hospital. He also claims separate payment for the services he furnished to the patient in the hospital. Verify that the dates of service on the separate claims do not overlap and that the services are reasonable and necessary.

**EXAMPLE 2** - Same as Example 1 except that a claim is also received for services by Dr. Jones for inpatient services. Verify that the services by Dr. Jones are reasonable and necessary and are not covered by the MCP or any payments made for services billed by Dr. Smith. Dr. Smith's services must meet the general coverage requirements for concurrent services. That is the patient's condition warrants the services of more than one physician on an attending (rather than consultative) basis and the individual services provided by each physician are reasonable and necessary.

**EXAMPLE 3** - Dr. Smith claims a full MCP but Dr. Jones bills for dialysis services furnished while the patient was in the hospital. Prorate Dr. Smith's monthly payment by 1/30th for each day that the patient was in the hospital.

- The carrier must conduct periodic review of a randomly selected sample of patients' histories with reimbursement under the MCP method, to evaluate whether the number of and types of services billed separately from the MCP are appropriate considering the individual patient's medical condition.
- Pay the MCP after the month has passed; i.e., do not pay the MCP in advance of the services actually furnished.
- Pay the MCP on a monthly basis. The same MCP applies regardless of the number of days in the month.
- Where several physicians form a team to provide the monthly continuity of services to a group of patients, make only one monthly payment for each patient.
- Make separate payments for medically necessary services that are included or bundled into the MCP (e.g., test interpretations) when furnished by physicians other than the monthly capitation payment physician. According to the Renal Physicians Association, these test interpretations are billed separately only in rare circumstances.
- If payment for inpatient hospital services is claimed in addition to the MCP, and assignment is taken only with respect to the MCP, follow the instructions in D above.

## **140.5 - Determining Monthly Capitation Payment Amount for Physician's Services to Maintenance Dialysis Patients**

(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)

### **B3-15060.3**

Effective with services rendered on January 1, 1995, the MCP is paid in accordance with the Medicare physician fee schedule. For adult patients, providers bill CPT code 90921. To bill for a month of services for pediatric patients, providers bill the appropriate monthly code (CPT codes 90918, 90919, or 90920). Because the services described by the care plan oversight codes (CPT codes 99375 and 99376) are included in the MCP, physicians may not bill for care plan oversight in the same month as they bill for the MCP.

### **140.5.1 - Temporary Absence Under MCP**

(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)

### **B3-15060.4**

When a patient attended by a physician electing the MCP method is temporarily attended by a second physician for services that are normally covered by the monthly payment, it is the responsibility of the primary physician to share payment with the second physician. For payment purposes, this arrangement is viewed as temporary joint provision of services. The beneficiary cannot be billed for the services of the second physician. Thus,

when a physician is temporarily unavailable to his/her patients, he/she must make any necessary arrangement with an associate physician to provide the services furnished to those patients for which monthly payments are made. Each physician may cover the other and no modification in payment is required. If payment must be shared, the physicians need to make an appropriate arrangement.

To bill for less than a month of service, physicians bill the appropriate daily code (CPT codes 90922-90925) with units that represent the number of days in a single month. If such an arrangement is not made; e.g., if the patient travels away from home, reduce the first physician's monthly rate by 1/30th for each day the patient was under the care of the second physician. Never reduce the MCP to a negative amount. That is, if a patient is out of town for a month that has 31 days, reduce the monthly payment to zero. Make no adjustment for the 31st day. The prorating process then begins again on the first day of the next month.

## **150 - Physician's Self-Dialysis Training Services**

### **B3-15060.5**

Pay physicians for physician training services furnished to dialysis patients undergoing training by a flat fee of \$500 (subject to the deductible and coinsurance requirements) for each patient under the physician's supervision during the training course. Pay this upon completion of the training course in addition to the monthly capitation payment for physician's maintenance dialysis services. If the training period is not completed, such as in instances where the patient can no longer be trained, prorate the training rate in proportion to the number of training treatments completed, but not to exceed \$500. For purposes of this pro-ratio, consider 25 training treatments as a complete course of training. Therefore, for an incomplete training course, pay the physician for the training services based on an amount of \$20 per treatment times the number of treatments completed. This rule applies to all modes of treatment, including CAPD.

Occasionally, it is necessary to furnish additional training to an ESRD self-dialysis beneficiary after the initial training course is completed; e.g., because of a change from hemodialysis to peritoneal dialysis, a change in equipment. The amount of additional training required depends upon the transferability of the skills the patient has already learned; subsequent training would normally be very limited. Physicians' training services furnished during subsequent training of an ESRD beneficiary are covered and reimbursed in addition to the initial training fee.

Subsequent training sessions that are reimbursable under this rule must be distinguished from the ongoing services for which the original training fee is considered payment in full; e.g., answering the patient's questions arising after home dialysis has begun about the machine the patient has already been trained to use. No additional payment is made after the initial training course unless the subsequent training is required because of a change from the patient's treatment machine to a machine that he had not been trained to use in the initial training course, a change in the type of dialysis, or a change in setting or dialysis partner

## **160 - Payment for Physician's Services Furnished to Dialysis Inpatients**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

### **B3-15062.1, B3-4275**

The following instructions cover physicians services to inpatients for all types of dialysis patients; e.g., hemodialysis, intermittent peritoneal dialysis (IPD), continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (CAPD), and continuous cycling peritoneal dialysis (CCPD). Note that the hospitalization need not be related to dialysis.

Payment is made on the claim only if the place of service on the claims is inpatient hospital. See [§170](#) for proper HCPCS coding.

### **160.1 - Determining Whether Physician Services Furnished on Day of Dialysis**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

#### **B3-15062.1**

If the patient is admitted to a hospital to receive dialysis for a reason not related to the patient's ESRD condition (e.g., there was no space available in the dialysis unit), the dialysis is covered as an outpatient service. In this case, carriers do not pay separately for any physicians' ESRD services because these services are covered under the physician's MCP or under the add-on to the hospital's composite rate for physicians under the initial method. (See [§130.1](#) for a description of the initial method.)

### **160.2 - Physicians' Services Furnished on Day of Dialysis**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

#### **B3-15062.1**

Supervision or direction of a dialysis treatment by a physician does not ordinarily meet the requirements for physicians' services and, therefore, is not paid for as such under the fee schedule. However, physicians are responsible for the medical care and treatment of the dialysis patients. Physicians' services furnished to those patients that meet the requirements and are medically necessary are covered. The hospital medical record must document the services furnished and the medical reasons for them.

Generally, claims from the physician receiving a procedure code payment for additional services furnished to the same patient on the day of dialysis must be reviewed by medical staff prior to payment. Follow [§170.B](#) for dialysis and evaluation and management services performed on the same day.

Payment in addition to the procedure code payment is made only if the service is not related to the treatment of the patient's ESRD, and the service was not, and could not have been, furnished during the dialysis treatment. However, an exception to this rule is physicians' surgical services; e.g., catheter insertion. Physicians' surgical services are generally billed under the appropriate procedure code for payment. If more than one physician furnishes care to the same dialysis patient, follow the usual coverage rules on concurrent care.

## **160.3 - Physicians' Services Furnished on Non-Dialysis Days**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

### **B3-15062.1**

Physicians' services furnished on non-dialysis days are coded and paid under the same rules as any other physicians' services when non-renal related services are furnished. Renal-related services may also be paid if the physician chooses to prorate the MCP payment. Generally, these services are the physicians' hospital visits and are coded and paid as such.

## **160.4 - Requirements for Payment**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

### **B3-15062.1**

#### **A - General**

When paying for physicians' services furnished to dialysis inpatients, whether they are ESRD patients or acute dialysis patients, there are several factors to consider.

- The payment must be for covered physicians' services;
- The services must be medically necessary; and
- The payment for the services must be reasonably related to the nature of the services actually furnished.

#### **B - Physicians' Services - Criteria for Procedure Codes**

The procedure code covers the full range of physicians' renal-related services furnished during an inpatient dialysis treatment.

In order to be paid on the basis of a procedure code, the physician must have been physically present with the patient at some time during the course of the dialysis, and the medical record (e.g., the physician's progress note or the nurse's notes in the patient's hospital medical record) must document this.

If the physician visits the dialysis inpatient on a dialysis day, but not during the dialysis treatment, do not pay the physician on the basis of a procedure code. The nature of these services is the same as physicians' services furnished to any inpatient during a hospital visit. Therefore, use the same hospital visit codes that apply to any other physicians treating hospital inpatients.

Physicians' services furnished to patients who are dialyzed as inpatients because there is no room in the outpatient dialysis units are covered under the MCP, and physicians are not paid amounts in addition to or in place of the MCP.

Effective January 1, 1995, all evaluation and management services provided on the same day as inpatient dialysis codes should be denied without review with the exception of CPT codes 99221-99223, 99251-99255, and 99238. These codes may be billed with modifier "-25" and reviewed for possible allowance if the evaluation and management service is unrelated to the treatment of ESRD and was not and could not have been furnished during the dialysis treatment.

## **C - Peritoneal Dialysis**

Peritoneal dialysis is typically furnished in extended periods. For example, CAPD is continuous, and the patient may actually be dialyzed seven days per week. IPD may be furnished in extended periods of 30 hours or more. The fact that a patient is dialyzed continuously for an extended period does not justify payment in excess of the average weekly allowance made for hemodialysis services. Payment in excess of this amount is made only if it is determined that the same kind and intensity of physicians' hemodialysis treatment beyond the number ordinarily furnished in a 7-day period, and the patient's condition was similar to that of a hemodialysis patient who would have required these additional services.

## **170 - Billing Physician Dialysis Services (codes 90935 - 90999) and Related Payment**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

### **B3-15350.B.3**

Except when the MCP applies claims for physicians' inpatient dialysis services furnished to ESRD or acute dialysis patients are processed using physicians' inpatient dialysis services procedure codes 90935, 90937, 90945, and 90947. All carriers must use these codes for these services.

Carriers make payment on the basis of ESRD procedure codes, i.e., codes 90935, 90937, 90945, or 90947, only if the place of service on the claim is inpatient hospital. This is because all physicians' outpatient renal-related services are included in payment made under the monthly capitation payment.

### **A. ESRD Monthly Capitation Payments**

Effective January 1, 1995, monthly capitation payments are made under the physician fee schedule. For their adult patients, physicians may bill either the monthly code (CPT code 90921) or the daily code (CPT code 90922) with units that represent the number of days in a single month, but may not bill both.

To bill for a month of services for pediatric patients, providers should bill the appropriate monthly code (CPT codes 90919, 90920, or 90921). To bill for less than a month of service, providers bill the appropriate daily code (CPT codes 90923-90925) and units that represent the number of days. Providers may bill either the monthly code or the daily code, but not both. Since billing is done at the conclusion of the month, the patient's age at the end of month is the age of the patient for billing purposes.

### **B - Inpatient and Outpatient Dialysis Services On Same Date As An Evaluation and Management Service**

CPT codes 90935 and 90937 are used to report inpatient ESRD hemodialysis and outpatient hemodialysis performed on non-ESRD patients (e.g., patients in acute renal failure requiring a brief period of dialysis prior to recovery). CPT codes 90945 and 90947 are used to report all non-hemodialysis procedures. All four of these codes include payment for any evaluation and management services related to the patients renal disease that are provided on the same date as the dialysis service. Therefore, payment for all

evaluation and management services is bundled into the payment for 90935, 90937, 90945, and 90947, except for the following evaluation and management services which may be reported on the same date as a dialysis service with the use of the –25 modifier and they are significant and separately identifiable and met any medical necessity requirements:

- 99201-99205 Office or Other Outpatient Visit for a New Patient
- 99211-99215 Office or Other Outpatient Visit for an Established Patient
- 99221-99223 Initial Hospital Care for a New or Established Patient
- 99238-99239 Hospital Discharge Day Management Services
- 99241-99245 Office or Other Outpatient Consultations, New or Established Patient
- 99251-99255 Initial Inpatient Consultations, New or Established Patient
- 99291-99292 Critical Care Services

In the absence of one of these codes being reported with the –25 modifier and meeting the other requirements listed above, pay only the dialysis service and deny the evaluation and management service. Furthermore, payment is not allowed for more than one dialysis service per day.

## **180 - Noninvasive Studies for ESRD Patients - Facility and Physician Services**

**(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)**

**AB-01-189, AB-03-001**

For Medicare coverage of noninvasive vascular studies, see the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 11.

For dialysis to take place there must be a means of access so that the exchange of waste products may occur. As part of the dialysis treatment, ESRD facilities are responsible for monitoring access, and when occlusions occur, either declot the access or refer the patient for appropriate treatment. Procedures associated with monitoring access involve taking venous pressure, aspirating thrombus, observing elevated recirculation time, reduced urea reduction ratios, or collapsed shunt, etc. All such procedures are covered under the composite rate.

ESRD facilities may not monitor access through noninvasive vascular studies such as duplex and Doppler flow scans and bill separately for these procedures. Noninvasive vascular studies are not covered as a separately billable service if used to monitor a patient's vascular access site.

Medicare pays for the technical component of the procedure in the composite payment rate.

Where there are signs and symptoms of vascular access problems, Doppler flow studies may be used as a means to obtain diagnostic information to permit medical intervention to address the problem. Doppler flow studies may be considered medically necessary in the presence of signs or symptoms of possible failure of the ESRD patient's vascular access site, and when the results are used in determining the clinical course of the treatment for the patient.

The only Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) billing code for noninvasive vascular testing of a hemodialysis access site is 93990. Carriers must deny separate billing of the technical component of this code if it is performed on any patient for whom the ESRD composite rate for dialysis is being paid, unless there is appropriate medical indication of the need for a Doppler flow study.

When a dialysis patient exhibits signs and symptoms of compromise to the vascular access site, Doppler flow studies may provide diagnostic information that will determine the appropriate medical intervention. Medicare considers a Doppler flow study medically necessary when the beneficiary's dialysis access site manifests signs or symptoms associated with vascular compromise, and when the results of this test are necessary to determine the clinical course of treatment.

Examples supporting the medical necessity for Doppler flow studies include:

- a. Elevated dynamic venous pressure >200mm HG when measured during dialysis with the blood pump set on a 200cc/min.,
- b. Access recirculation of 12 percent or greater,
- c. An otherwise unexplained urea reduction ration <60 percent
- d. An access with a palpable "water hammer" pulse on examination, (which implies venous outflow obstruction).

Unless the documentation is provided supporting the necessity of more than one study, Medicare will limit payment to either a Doppler flow study or an arteriogram (fistulogram, venogram), but not both.

An example of when both studies may be clinically necessary is when a Doppler flow study demonstrates reduced flow (blood flow rate less than 800cc/min or a decreased flow of 25 percent or greater from previous study) and the physician requires an arteriogram to further define the extent of the problem. The patient's medical record(s) must provide documentation supporting the need for more than one imaging study.

This policy is applicable to claims from ESRD facilities and all other sources, such as independent diagnostic testing facilities, and hospital outpatient departments.

Carriers shall develop LMRP for Doppler flow studies if this service meets the criteria listed in the Medicare Program Integrity Manual, Chapter 1. This provides guidance to contractors on the scope, purpose, and meaning of LMRP.

The professional component of the procedure is included in the monthly capitation payment (MCP) (See [§140](#) above.) The professional component should be denied for code 93990 if billed by the MCP physician. Medically necessary services that are

included or bundled into the MCP (e.g., test interpretations) are separately payable when furnished by physicians other than the MCP physician.

If the claim is denied, carriers report this on a remittance advice with group code “CO,” and claim adjustment reason code 24, “Payment for charges denied. Charges are covered under a capitation agreement.”

The Medicare Summary Notice denial message number is 16.32; “ Medicare does not pay separately for this service.”

Billing for monitoring of hemodialysis access using CPT codes for noninvasive vascular studies other than 93990 is considered a misrepresentation of the service actually provided and contractors will consider this action for fraud investigation. They will conduct data analysis on a periodic basis for noninvasive diagnostic studies of the extremities (including CPT codes 93922, 93923, 93924, 93925, 93926, 93930, 93931, 93965, 93970, 93971). Contractors should handle aberrant findings under normal program safeguard processes by taking whatever corrective action is deemed necessary.

## **190 - Appeal Rights for Denied Claims**

For appeal rights if the claim is denied see Chapter 29.