
Program Memorandum Intermediaries/Carriers

Department of Health and
Human Services (DHHS)
HEALTH CARE FINANCING
ADMINISTRATION (HCFA)

Transmittal AB-01-60

Date: APRIL 24, 2001

CHANGE REQUEST 1641

SUBJECT: New Temporary "Q" Codes for Splints and Casts Used for Reduction of Fractures and Dislocations

Background:

In the Medicare physician fee schedule beginning in 2001, the casting supplies were removed from the practice expenses for all HCPCS codes, including the CPT codes for fracture management and for casts and splints. Thus, for settings in which CPT codes are used to pay for services which include the provision of a cast or splint, new temporary codes are being established to pay physicians and other practitioners for the supplies used in creating casts. The work and practice expenses involved with the creation of the cast or splint should continue to be coded using the appropriate CPT code. The use of the new temporary codes described below will replace less specific coding for the casting and splinting supplies.

Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs) Only:

The payments for casting and splinting supplies provided in hospital outpatient departments and ambulatory surgical centers are unchanged by this Program Memorandum (PM). To the extent these services are provided by Home Health Agencies and to hospice patients for the treatment of a nonterminal illness, the payments for these services are also unchanged. These facilities continue to utilize the appropriate codes in the 29000 through 29750 series of HCPCS Level I codes. The only settings in which payments may be made on the physician fee schedule are comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facilities (CORFs) bill type 75X and outpatient therapy facilities (ORFs) bill type 74X. The Q codes will be added in the October 1, 2001, version of the Outpatient Code Editor, so their use in these settings will not be implemented until that date. At that time, FIs should contact their carriers to obtain a price when they receive a claim reflecting any of the Q codes listed below. In the interim, these facilities continue to bill and be paid for casting and splinting materials as they have in the past.

The remainder of this PM applies to carriers processing claims with dates of service on or after July 1, 2001, and FIs processing claims for CORFs and ORFs with dates of service on or after October 1, 2001.

FIs and Carriers:

The following temporary "Q" codes have been established for the supplies used by physicians and other practitioners to create splints and casts used for reduction of fractures and dislocations:

- Q4001 Cast supplies, body cast adult, with or without head, plaster
- Q4002 Cast supplies, body cast adult, with or without head, fiberglass
- Q4003 Cast supplies, application of shoulder cast, adult (11 years +), plaster
- Q4004 Cast supplies, application of shoulder cast, adult (11 years +), fiberglass
- Q4005 Cast supplies, long arm cast, adult (11 years +), plaster
- Q4006 Cast supplies, long arm cast, adult (11 years +), fiberglass
- Q4007 Cast supplies, long arm cast, pediatric (0-10 years), plaster
- Q4008 Cast supplies, long arm cast, pediatric (0-10 years), fiberglass

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- Q4009 Cast supplies, short arm cast, adult (11 years +), plaster
- Q4010 Cast supplies, short arm cast, adult (11 years +), fiberglass
- Q4011 Cast supplies, short arm cast, pediatric (0-10 years), plaster
- Q4012 Cast supplies, short arm cast, pediatric (0-10 years), fiberglass
- Q4013 Cast supplies, gauntlet cast (includes lower forearm and hand), adult (11 years +), plaster
- Q4014 Cast supplies, gauntlet cast (includes lower forearm and hand), adult (11 years +), fiberglass
- Q4015 Cast supplies, gauntlet cast (includes lower forearm and hand, pediatric (0-10 years), plaster
- Q4016 Cast supplies, gauntlet cast (includes lower forearm and hand), pediatric (0-10 years), fiberglass
- Q4017 Cast supplies, long arm splint, adult (11 years +), plaster
- Q4018 Cast supplies, long arm splint, adult (11 years +), fiberglass
- Q4019 Cast supplies, long arm splint, pediatric (0-10 years), plaster
- Q4020 Cast supplies, long arm splint, pediatric (0-10 years), fiberglass
- Q4021 Cast supplies, short arm splint, adult (11 years +), plaster
- Q4022 Cast supplies, short arm splint, adult (11 years +), fiberglass
- Q4023 Cast supplies, short arm splint, pediatric (0-10 years), plaster
- Q4024 Cast supplies, short arm splint, pediatric (0-10 years), fiberglass
- Q4025 Cast supplies, hip spica (one or both legs), adult (11 years +), plaster
- Q4026 Cast supplies, hip spica (one or both legs), adult (11 years +), fiberglass
- Q4027 Cast supplies, hip spica (one or both legs), pediatric (0-10 years), plaster
- Q4028 Cast supplies, hip spica (one or both legs), pediatric (0-10 years), fiberglass
- Q4029 Cast supplies, long leg cast, adult (11 years +), plaster
- Q4030 Cast supplies, long leg cast, adult (11 years +), fiberglass
- Q4031 Cast supplies, long leg cast, pediatric (0-10 years), plaster
- Q4032 Cast supplies, long leg cast, pediatric (0-10 years), fiberglass
- Q4033 Cast supplies, long leg cylinder cast, adult (11 years +), plaster
- Q4034 Cast supplies, long leg cylinder cast, adult (11 years +), fiberglass
- Q4035 Cast supplies, long leg cylinder cast, pediatric (0-10 years), plaster
- Q4036 Cast supplies, long leg cylinder cast, pediatric (0-10 years), fiberglass
- Q4037 Cast supplies, short leg cast, adult (11 years +), plaster
- Q4038 Cast supplies, short leg cast, adult (11 years +), fiberglass
- Q4039 Cast supplies, short leg cast, pediatric (0-10 years), plaster
- Q4040 Cast supplies, short leg cast, pediatric (0-10 years), fiberglass
- Q4041 Cast supplies, long leg splint, adult (11 years +), plaster
- Q4042 Cast supplies, long leg splint, adult (11 years +), fiberglass
- Q4043 Cast supplies, long leg splint, pediatric (0-10 years), plaster
- Q4044 Cast supplies, long leg splint, pediatric (0-10 years), fiberglass
- Q4045 Cast supplies, short leg splint, adult (11 years +), plaster
- Q4046 Cast supplies, short leg splint, adult (11 years +), fiberglass
- Q4047 Cast supplies, short leg splint, pediatric (0-10 years), plaster
- Q4048 Cast supplies, short leg splint, pediatric (0-10 years), fiberglass

- Q4049 Finger splint, static
 Q4050 Cast supplies, for unlisted types and material of casts
 Q4051 Splint supplies, miscellaneous (includes thermoplastics, strapping, fasteners, padding and other supplies)

Codes A4570, A4580, A4590, L2102, L2104, L2122, and L2124, which were previously used for billing of splints and casts are invalid for Medicare use effective July 1, 2001, for carrier processed claims and October 1, 2001, for intermediary processed claims. Carriers should allow for a three month grace period (July 1, 2001 through September 30, 2001) for use of these codes while transitioning to the new Q codes for splints and casts.

For claims with dates of service on or after July 1, 2001, jurisdiction for processing claims for splints (previously billed using A4570) will transfer from the DMERCs to the local carriers. The local carriers have jurisdiction for processing claims for the new Q codes for splints and casts, which includes codes for splints that may have previously been billed to the DMERCs under code A4570. In addition, for claims with dates of service on or after July 1, 2001, jurisdiction for slings (A4565), will be jointly maintained by the local carriers (for physician claims) and the DMERCs (for supplier claims).

To assist physicians and practitioner to select the correct code for the cast and splinting supplies, the following crosswalk provides guidance as to which supply codes are applicable for the various types of casts described by Level I or CPT codes.

<u>Level I</u>	<u>Level II</u>	<u>Level I</u>	<u>Level II</u>
29000	Q4001 or Q4002	29126	Q4021 through Q4024
29010	Q4001 or Q4002	29130	Q4049
29015	Q4001 or Q4002	29131	Q4051
29020	Q4001 or Q4002	29305	Q4025 through Q4028
29025	Q4001 or Q4002	29325	Q4025 through Q4028
29035	Q4001 or Q4002	29345	Q4029 through Q4032
29040	Q4001 or Q4002	29355	Q4029 through Q4032
29044	Q4001 or Q4002	29365	Q4033 through Q4036
29046	Q4001 or Q4002	29405	Q4037 through Q4040
29049	Q4050	29425	Q4037 through Q4040
29055	Q4003 or Q4004	29435	Q4037 through Q4040
29058	Q4003	29440	Q4050
29065	Q4005 through Q4008	29445	Q4037 through Q4040
29075	Q4009 through Q4012	29450	Q4035, Q4036, Q4039, or Q4040
29085	Q4013 through Q4016	29505	Q4041 through Q4044
29105	Q4017 through Q4020	29515	Q4045 through Q4048
29125	Q4021 through Q4024		

Carriers Only:

The CWF categories for the Q codes are 16 and 67. The TOS designation for these codes is S. Payment amounts for splints and casts are currently made in accordance with the reasonable charge payment methodology. The charge data required for calculating the reasonable charges for these new codes for 2001 are not available. Therefore, the customary, prevailing, and inflation-indexed charge amounts for the remainder of 2001 have been gap-filled using payment amounts based on current retail pricing information. Payment for items furnished on or after July 1, 2001, and before January 1, 2002, will be based on the lower of the actual charge and the gap-filled payment amounts listed below.

2001 Payment Amounts

<u>HCPCS</u>	<u>Payment Amount</u>
A4565	\$6.10
Q4001	\$34.78
Q4002	\$131.44
Q4003	\$24.98
Q4004	\$86.48
Q4005	\$9.21
Q4006	\$20.76
Q4007	\$4.61
Q4008	\$10.38
Q4009	\$6.14
Q4010	\$13.84
Q4011	\$3.07
Q4012	\$6.92
Q4013	\$11.18
Q4014	\$18.88
Q4015	\$5.59
Q4016	\$9.44
Q4017	\$6.47
Q4018	\$10.32
Q4019	\$3.24
Q4020	\$5.16
Q4021	\$4.79
Q4022	\$8.64
Q4023	\$2.40
Q4024	\$4.32
Q4025	\$26.86
Q4026	\$83.85
Q4027	\$13.43
Q4028	\$41.93
Q4029	\$20.53
Q4030	\$54.05
Q4031	\$10.27
Q4032	\$27.03
Q4033	\$19.15
Q4034	\$47.65
Q4035	\$9.58
Q4036	\$23.83
Q4037	\$11.69
Q4038	\$29.27
Q4039	\$5.85
Q4040	\$14.64

<u>HCPCS</u>	<u>Payment Amount</u>
Q4041	\$14.21
Q4042	\$24.25
Q4043	\$7.10
Q4044	\$12.13
Q4045	\$8.25
Q4046	\$13.27
Q4047	\$4.12
Q4048	\$6.64
Q4049	\$1.50

Payment for claims for miscellaneous splints and casts (Q4050 and Q4051) shall be determined by the carrier based upon their individual consideration for each item.

The local carriers, DMERCs, and FIs should publish this information in their next scheduled bulletin and on their websites.

The effective date for this PM is July 1, 2001.

The implementation date for this PM is July 1, 2001, for carriers and October 1, 2001, for Fis.

Any questions regarding these instructions should be directed to Joel Kaiser on (410) 786-4499.

These instructions should be implemented within your current operating budget.

This PM may be discarded April 1, 2002.