
Program Memorandum Carriers

Department of Health &
Human Services (DHHS)
Centers for Medicare &
Medicaid Services (CMS)

Transmittal B-02-062

Date: OCTOBER 4, 2002

CHANGE REQUEST 2386

SUBJECT: Payment to Registered Dietitians for Diabetes Outpatient Self-Management Training (DSMT) Services

The purpose of this Program Memorandum (PM) is to confirm that registered dietitians are allowed to bill on behalf of a DSMT program.

Section 4105 of the Balanced Billing Act of 1997 permits Medicare coverage of DSMT when the services are furnished by a certified provider who meets certain quality standards. The DSMT program educates beneficiaries in the successful self-management of diabetes. The program includes education about self-monitoring of blood glucose, diet and exercise, and insulin treatment plan developed specifically for the patient who is insulin-dependent. The program also motivates patients towards self-management of their diabetes.

All suppliers/providers who may bill for other Medicare services or items and who represent a DSMT program that is accredited as meeting quality standards can bill and receive payment for the entire DSMT program. Registered dietitians are eligible to bill on behalf of an entire DSMT program on or after January 1, 2002, as long as the provider has obtained a Medicare provider number. A dietitian may not be the sole provider of the DSMT service. Dietitians can be part of a multi-disciplinary team in the DSMT program.

Currently, the Part B standard systems contain an edit that does not allow the payment of registered dietitians for other than MNT services. Claims submitted by registered dietitians on behalf of a DSMT program are currently being denied. If the Part B system you are using allows you to pay these claims through modifying carrier controlled tables, carriers should make those appropriate edit table changes to pay these claims. If the Part B system requires changes to be made by the standard system maintainer, carriers should pay the denied claims through the appeal process or a work around until the CMS issues an instruction that requires standard system changes.

Provider Education

Contractors must prepare an article instructing registered dietitians to contact their local carrier if they have submitted any claims on behalf of a diabetes outpatient self-management training program, which were denied. Contractors must publish this article in their next regularly scheduled bulletin and post as soon as possible on their Web sites.

Future Instruction

The CMS will be issuing a future instruction regarding other outstanding DSMT issues as well as clarifying the payment amount for non-physician practitioners (including registered dietitians) who bill on behalf of a DSMT program.

The *effective date* for this PM is October 4, 2002.

The *implementation date* for this PM is October 4, 2002.

These instructions should be implemented within your current operating budget.

This PM may be discarded after April 1, 2003.

Direct any questions to the appropriate regional office.