

Related Change Request (CR) #: 3053

MLN Matters Number: MM3053

Related CR Release Date: January 23, 2004

Related CR Transmittal #: R450TN

Effective Date: April 1, 2004

Implementation Date: April 5, 2004

## *Emergency Correction to Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Codes for Low-Osmolar Contrast Material*

**Note:** This article was updated on April 22, 2013, to reflect current Web addresses. All other information remains unchanged.

### Providers Affected

All Medicare hospitals and physicians.

### Provider Action Needed



#### **STOP – Impact to You**

HCPCS code A9525 (for low- or iso-osmolar contrast material) will be invalid after April 1, 2004. If you use the code for services you provided on or after this date, your claims for the use of low-osmolar contrast material may not be processed.



#### **CAUTION – What You Need to Know**

Previously deleted HCPCS codes A4644 through A4646 (for low-osmolar contrast material) have been reinstated. Concurrently, the newly added code A9525 (for low- or iso-ismolar contrast material) will become invalid on April 1, 2004.



#### **GO – What You Need to Do**

Make sure that your billing staff knows that HCPCS code A9525 will become invalid on April 1, 2004. You should continue to use codes A4644 through A4646 for your claims for the use of low- and iso-osmolar contrast material.

#### Disclaimer

This article was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This article may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents.

## Background

This One-Time Notification provides specific instructions regarding HCPCS codes for low-osmolar contrast material.

HCPCS codes A4644 thru A4646 have been used to bill for low-osmolar contrast material since 1994. The HCPCS Alpha-Numeric Editorial Panel decided to add a new single code A9525 for low- or iso-osmolar contrast material and delete codes A4644 thru A4646 effective January 1, 2004.

Since then, CMS has decided that this change in HCPCS codes may result in incorrect coding of low-osmolar contrast material. Therefore, CMS wants you to continue to use (or revert back to using) codes A4644 thru A4646, for both low- and iso-osmolar contrast material, rather than the new code A9525. Further, on April 1, 2004, code A9525 will become invalid, so that any claims you submit using this code for services on or after that date may not be processed.

## Additional Information

For more information concerning this issue, please visit <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R45OTN.pdf> on the CMS website.

### Disclaimer

This article was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This article may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents.