MLN Matters®
Information for Medicare Fee-for-Service Health Care Professionals

News Flash – Medicare will cover immunizations for H1N1 influenza also called the "swine flu." There will be no coinsurance or copayment applied to this benefit, and beneficiaries will not have to meet their deductible. H1N1 influenza vaccine is currently under production and will be available in the Fall of 2009. For more information, go to ***http://www.cms.hhs.gov/H1N1*** on the CMS website.

MLN Matters® Number: MM6662 | **Related Change Request (CR) #: 6662**

Related CR Release Date: October 9, 2009 | **Effective Date: January 1, 2010**

Related CR Transmittal #: R1827CP | **Implementation Date: January 4, 2010**

Annual Update of HCPCS Codes Used for Home Health (HH) Consolidated Billing Enforcement

Provider Types Affected

Physicians, providers, and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare contractors (carriers, DME Medicare administrative contractors (DME MACs), fiscal intermediaries (FIs), Part A/B Medicare administrative contractors (A/B MACs), and/or regional home health intermediaries (RHHIs)) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries during an episode of home health care.

Provider Action Needed

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) periodically updates the lists of Healthcare Common Procedure Codes System (HCPCS) codes subject to the consolidated billing provision of the Home Health Prospective Payment System (HH PPS). Make sure your billing staff is aware of these changes.

What You Need to Know

CR6662 provides the annual HH consolidated billing update effective January 1, 2010.

The following two HCPCS codes are added to the home health consolidated billing supply code list. Code A4456 is a new code that replaces code A4365 which is deleted below.

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Added HCPCS Code	Descriptor
A4360	Disposable external urethral clamp or compression device with pad and/or pouch
A4456	Ostomy adhesive remover wipe

The following HCPCS code is deleted from the home health consolidated billing supply code list.

Deleted HCPCS Code	Descriptor
A4365	Ostomy adhesive remover wipe

Background

The CMS periodically updates the lists of Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes that are subject to the consolidated billing provision of the HH PPS. With the exception of therapies performed by physicians, supplies incidental to physician services and supplies used in institutional settings, services appearing on this list that are submitted on claims to Medicare contractors will not be paid separately on dates when a beneficiary for whom such a service is being billed is in a home health episode (i.e., under a home health plan of care administered by a home health agency). Medicare will only directly reimburse the primary home health agencies that have opened such episodes during the episode periods. Therapies performed by physicians, supplies incidental to physician services and supplies used in institutional settings are not subject to HH consolidated billing.

The HH consolidated billing code lists are updated annually, to reflect the annual changes to the HCPCS code set itself. Additional updates may occur as frequently as quarterly in order to reflect the creation of temporary HCPCS codes (e.g., 'K' codes) throughout the calendar year. The new coding identified in each update describes the same services that were used to determine the applicable HH PPS payment rates. No additional services will be added by these updates; that is, new updates are required by changes to the coding system, not because the services subject to HH consolidated billing are being redefined.

Additional Information

If you have questions, please contact your Medicare carrier/FI/RHHI/MAC at their toll-free number which may be found at ***http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip*** on the CMS website.

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The official instruction (CR6662) issued to your Medicare carrier/FI/RHHI/MAC is available at ***http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1827CP.pdf*** on the CMS website.

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