DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

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The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is launching a new instrument for 2013 called the MAC Satisfaction Indicator (MSI). The MSI is a tool that measures providers' satisfaction with their Medicare claims administrative contractor(s). Your input will help your MAC to improve the services that they offer you. Participation is voluntary, but you must register to participate. Complete the application at https://adobeformscentral.com/?f=eMRKPqaWpqMxNOmTQpSKDA on the Internet. For more information, visit http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Contracting/MSI on the CMS website.

MLN Matters® Number: MM8433

Related Change Request (CR) #: CR 8433

Related CR Release Date: September 13, 2013

Effective Date: August 1, 2013

Related CR Transmittal #: R2786CP

Implementation Date: No later than October 25, 2013

Influenza Vaccine Payment Allowances - Annual Update for 2013-2014 Season

Provider Types Affected

This MLN Matters® Article is intended for physicians and providers submitting claims to Medicare contractors (carriers, Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs), and Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs)) for influenza vaccines provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

Provider Action Needed

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued Change Request (CR) 8433 in order to update payment allowances, effective August 1, 2013, for seasonal influenza virus vaccines when payment is based on 95 percent of the Average Wholesale Price (AWP). Be sure your billing staffs are aware of this update.

Disclaimer

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Background

CR 8433 provides payment allowances for the following seasonal influenza virus vaccine codes when payment is based on 95 percent of the AWP, except when furnished in a hospital outpatient department, a Rural Health Clinic, or a Federally Qualified Health Center for which payment is based on reasonable cost:

- Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes 90654, 90655, 90656, 90657, 90660, 90661, 90662, 90672, 90673, 90685, 90686, 90687, and 90688; and
- Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes Q2033, Q2035, Q2036, Q2037, and Q2038.

The updated allowance rates are effective for dates of service (DOS) as follows (except when provided in a hospital outpatient department, RHC, or FQHC):

- CPT 90655 is $17.243 (DOS 8/1/2013-7/31/2014)
- CPT 90656 is $12.398 (DOS 8/1/2013-7/31/2014)
- CPT 90657 is $6.022 (DOS 8/1/2013-7/31/2014)
- CPT 90661 is pending (DOS 8/1/2013-7/31/2014)
- CPT 90685 is $23.228 (DOS 8/1/2013-7/31/2014)
- CPT 90686 is $19.409 (DOS 8/1/2013-7/31/2014)
- CPT90687 is pending (DOS pending-7/31/2014)
- CPT90688 is pending (DOS pending-7/31/2014)
- HCPCS Q2035 (Afluria®) is $11.543 (DOS 8/1/2013-7/31/2014)
- HCPCS Q2036 (Flulaval®) is $8.579 (DOS 8/1/2013-7/31/2014)
- HCPCS Q2037 (Fluvirin®) is $14.963 (DOS 8/1/2013-7/31/2014)
- HCPCS Q2038 (Fluzone®) is $12.044 (DOS 8/1/2013-7/31/2014)

Effective August 1, 2013, HCPCS Q2039 (Flu Vaccine Adult - Not Otherwise Classified) payment allowance is to be determined by the local claims processing contractor.

As the information becomes available, CMS will post payment limits for influenza vaccines that are approved after the release date of this CR (including CPT codes 90687 & 90688) on the CMS Seasonal Influenza Vaccines Pricing webpage at http://cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Part-B-Drugs/McrPartBDrugAvgSalesPrice/VaccinesPricing.html on the CMS website.

Payment for the following may be made if your MAC determines its use is medically reasonable and necessary for the beneficiary:

- CPT 90654 Payment allowance is $18.918 for DOS of 8/1/2013-7/31/2014.
- CPT 90662 Payment allowance is $31.823 for DOS of 8/1/2013-7/31/2014.
- CPT 90672 Payment allowance is $24.596 for DOS of 8/1/2013-7/31/2014.

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- CPT 90673 Payment allowance is pending for DOS of 1/1/2014-7/31/2014.
- HCPCS Q2033 (Flublok®) Payment allowance is pending for DOS of 8/1/2013-7/31/2014.

Please note that the payment allowances for pneumococcal vaccines are based on 95 percent of the AWP and are updated on a quarterly basis via the Quarterly Average Sales Price (ASP) Drug Pricing Files. Further, you should be aware that annual Part B deductible and coinsurance amounts do not apply. All physicians, non-physician practitioners, and suppliers who administer the influenza virus vaccination and the pneumococcal vaccination must take assignment on the claim for the vaccine.

Finally, MACs will not search their files either to retract payment for claims already paid or to retroactively pay claims; however, they will adjust claims that you bring to their attention.

Additional Information

The official instruction, CR 8433 issued to your MAC regarding this change may be viewed at http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R2786CP.pdf on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your MAC at their toll-free number, which may be found at http://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/provider-compliance-interactive-map/index.html on the CMS website.

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