



Attention ESRD Facilities!

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MLN Matters Number: MM5216

Related Change Request (CR) #: 5216

Related CR Release Date: August 25, 2006

Effective Date: January 1, 2007

Related CR Transmittal #: R1041CP

Implementation Date: January 2, 2007

Note: This article was revised on September 19, 2006, to reflect changes made to CR5216, which was re-issued on August 25. Originally, CR5216 changed the revenue code that hospitals reported EPO with to 0636. However, 0636 is **not** to be used for this purpose. **Hospitals should continue to use 0634/0635 as they currently do.** In addition to this change, the article was revised to reflect a new CR release date, transmittal number, and a new Web address for accessing CR5216. All other information remains the same.

Change in Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) for Renal Dialysis Facilities and Hospitals Billing for End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Related Epoetin Alfa (EPO) Effective January 1, 2007

Provider Types Affected

Renal dialysis facilities and hospitals billing Medicare fiscal intermediaries (FIs) for renal dialysis services

Provider Action Needed



STOP – Impact to You

Effective for services on or after January 1, 2007, you must include the new Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code Q4081 (Injection, Epoetin alfa, 100 units (for ESRD on dialysis)) when you bill for an injection of Epoetin alfa (EPO) for your ESRD patients on dialysis.

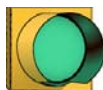
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CAUTION – What You Need to Know

A new HCPCS code (Q4081) has been established for the injection of Epoetin alfa, 100 units (for ESRD patients on dialysis), submitted on bill type 72X, 12x, 13x and 85x, effective January 1, 2007. Renal dialysis facilities and hospitals previously billing for ESRD related EPO with the 1000 unit code J0886 should begin using the new 100 unit code effective January 1, 2007.



GO – What You Need to Do

Make sure that your billing staffs are aware of the requirement to use this new HCPCS code for the use of 100 units of Epoetin alfa by injection, effective January 1, 2007.

Background

CR5216, upon which this article is based, provides that a new HCPCS code has been established for an injection of Epoetin alfa, 100 units (for ESRD patients on dialysis). The new code, Q4081, will be effective for services on or after January 1, 2007 when submitted on bill type 72X, 12x, 13x and 85x (see Table 1, below).

Renal dialysis facilities and hospitals previously billing for ESRD related EPO with the 1000 unit code J0886 should begin using the new 100 unit code for all claims with dates of service on or after January 1, 2007.

Billing and payment instructions for renal dialysis facilities previously applicable to J0886, as defined in the *Medicare Claims Processing Manual* (publication 100-4), Chapter 8, Section 60, will be applicable to Q4081. There are no other billing or payment changes for renal dialysis facilities.

Change in Revenue Code Reporting for Hospitals

Hospitals and renal dialysis facilities will report Q4081 for the appropriate bill types 12x, 13x, 72x, and 85x.

Table 1. Epoetin Alfa Injection HCPCS Codes, Descriptions, and Applicable Billing Periods

HCPCS	HCPCS Description	Applicable Billing Period
Q4055	Injection, Epoetin alfa, 1,000 units (for ESRD on Dialysis)	1/1/2004 through 12/31/2005
J0886	Injection, Epoetin alfa, 1,000 units (for ESRD on Dialysis)	1/1/2006 through 12/31/2006
Q4081	Injection, Epoetin alfa, 100 units (for ESRD on Dialysis)	1/1/2007 and after

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Additional Information

You can find more information about new HCPCS code (Q4081) for the injection of Epoetin alfa, 100 units (for ESRD patients on dialysis) by going to CR5216, located at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1041CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

CR5216 includes the revised pages of the *Medicare Claims Processing Manual* affected by the Change Request. Those pages also manualize instructions released in CR2503 for those who wish a refresher on those instructions.

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

Flu Shot Reminder

September is the perfect time to start talking with your patients about getting the flu shot. Medicare provides coverage for the flu vaccine and its administration. Please encourage your Medicare patients to take advantage of this vital benefit. And don't forget – health care professionals and their staff benefit from the flu vaccine also. **Protect Yourself. Protect Your Patients. Get Your Flu Shot.**

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