



News Flash - An additional election period for the Competitive Acquisition Program (CAP) for Medicare Part B drugs will start on January 15 and run through February 15, 2008, to give physicians a chance to take advantage of new changes to the program that began on January 1, 2008. The CAP is a voluntary program that provides an alternative to ASP for physicians to obtain certain Part B drugs. More information about the CAP is available at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CompetitiveAcquisforBios/01_overview.asp on the CMS website.

MLN Matters Number: MM5902

Related Change Request (CR) #: 5902

Related CR Release Date: February 5, 2008

Effective Date: January 1, 2008

Related CR Transmittal #: R1435CP

Implementation Date: January 7, 2008

Emergency Update to the 2008 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Database (MPFSDB)

Provider Types Affected

Physicians, other practitioners, providers, and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare contractors (carriers, Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs), and/or Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs)) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries and paid under the MPFSDB.

Provider Action Needed

The article is based on Change Request (CR) 5902 which amends payment files that were issued to Medicare contractors based upon the November 1, 2007, Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) Final Rule.

Background

The Social Security Act (Section 1848(c)(4)); see http://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title18/1848.htm on the Internet) authorizes the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to establish ancillary policies necessary to implement relative values for physicians' services. Previously, payment files were issued to Medicare contractors based upon the November 1, 2007, Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule.

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Change Request (CR) 5902 amends those payment files.

In summary, CR 5902 instructs your Medicare contractor to:

- Manually update their systems to reflect 5 base units for Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code 01916; and
- Manually update their Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) file to include the laboratory certification code (LC) 400 for CPT code 89060 on or after January 1, 2008.

Note: See Attachment 1 of CR 5902 for a list of detailed changes for certain CPT/HCPCS codes included in the Emergency Update to the 2008 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Database (MPFSDB). The Web address for accessing CR5902 is in the next section of this article.

Additional Information

The official instruction, CR 5902, issued to your Medicare carrier, FI, and A/B MAC regarding this change may be viewed at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1435CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

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

News Flash - It's Not Too Late to Give and Get the Flu Shot! In the U.S., the peak of flu season typically occurs anywhere from late December through March; however, flu season can last as late as May. Each office visit presents an opportunity for you to talk with your patients about the importance of getting an annual flu shot and a one time pneumococcal vaccination. Protect yourself, your patients, and your family and friends by getting and giving the flu shot. **Don't Get the Flu. Don't Give the Flu. Get Vaccinated!** Remember - Influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations and their administration are covered Part B benefits. Note that influenza and pneumococcal vaccines are NOT Part D covered drugs. You and your staff can learn more about Medicare's coverage of adult immunizations and related provider education resources, by reviewing Special Edition MLN Matters article SE0748 at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0748.pdf> on the CMS website.

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