



News Flash – The revised *Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Fact Sheet* (January 2008), which provides general information about the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule, can be accessed at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/MedcrePhysFeeSchedfctsh.pdf> on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services website.

MLN Matters Number: MM5948

Related Change Request (CR) #: 5948

Related CR Release Date: February 22, 2008

Effective Date: April 1, 2008

Related CR Transmittal #: R1455CP

Implementation Date: April 7, 2008

Part B Drug Competitive Acquisition Program (CAP) Quarterly Drug List Update

Provider Types Affected

Physicians billing Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs) and carriers for Medicare Part B drugs, and approved CAP vendors billing the designated Medicare A/B MAC or carrier.

What Providers Need to Know

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 5948, which provides notice that there will be a Part B CAP Quarterly Drug List Update effective April 1, 2008. CR 5948 notifies carriers and A/B MACs of the processes necessary for implementing the Part B CAP Quarterly Drug List Update effective April 1, 2008.

Background

Section 303 (d) of the Medicare Modernization Act requires the implementation of a competitive acquisition program (CAP) for Medicare Part B drugs and biologicals not paid on a cost or prospective payment system basis. The CAP is an alternative to the average sales price (ASP) (buy and bill) methodology for acquiring certain Part B drugs which are administered incident to a physician's services. Beginning with drugs administered on or after July 1, 2006, physicians have a choice between buying and billing these drugs under the ASP system, or obtaining these drugs from the vendor selected in the competitive bidding process.

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Key Points of CR5948

- A quarterly update of the CAP drug list will become effective on April 1, 2008.
- Payment amounts for drugs added to the CAP drug list as a result of the update will be implemented for claims with dates of service beginning April 1, 2008 per the new file.

Additional Information

To see the official instruction (CR5948) issued to your Medicare Carrier or A/B MAC, visit <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1455CP.pdf> on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website.

For more information about the Competitive Acquisition for Part B Drugs & Biologicals, refer to <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CompetitiveAcquisforBios/> on the CMS website.

If you have questions, please contact your Medicare carrier 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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