



News Flash - Upcoming Training for the Medicare Part B Drugs Competitive Acquisition Program (CAP) - Noridian Administrative Services, the designated carrier for the CAP, offers interactive, online workshops about the CAP for Part B Drugs and Biologicals. These workshops train CAP vendors and elected physicians on a number of CAP topics and requirements such as billing for CAP claims, and NAS personnel are available to answer questions. Physicians and/or their staff are strongly encouraged to attend. Interested parties may view additional information about and register for these workshops at https://www.noridianmedicare.com/cap_drug/train/workshops/index.html on the Internet.

MLN Matters Number: MM6053

Related Change Request (CR) #: 6053

Related CR Release Date: May 30, 2008

Effective Date: July 1, 2008

Related CR Transmittal #: R1520CP

Implementation Date: July 7, 2008

Part B Drug Competitive Acquisition Program (CAP) Quarterly Drug 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.

Impact on Providers

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 6053, which provides notice that there will be a Part B CAP Quarterly Drug List Update effective July 1, 2008. CR 6053 notifies the CAP designated carrier, carriers, and A/B MACs of the processes necessary for implementing the Part B CAP Quarterly Drug List Update effective July 1, 2008.

Key Points of CR 6053

- A quarterly update of the CAP drug list will become effective on July 1, 2008.

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- 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 July 1, 2008 per the new file.
- CR6053 provides additional details, information, and instructions for the implementation of the CAP as outlined in MLN Matters articles MM5079 and MM4064, which may be reviewed at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5079.pdf> and <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM4064.pdf> on the CMS website.
- MLN 5839 at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5839.pdf> on the CMS website contains information about the CAP quarterly drug update that was effective January 1, 2008.
- MLN 5948 at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5948.pdf> contains information about the CAP quarterly drug update that was 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.

Additional Information

For complete details regarding this CR please see the official instruction (CR6053) issued to your Medicare A/B MAC, or carrier. That instruction may be viewed by going to <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1520CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have questions, please contact your Medicare A/B MAC, or carrier 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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Also, additional information on the CAP program is available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CompetitiveAcquisforBios/> on the CMS website.

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