

Medlearn Matters Number: MM4114

Related Change Request (CR) #: 4114

Related CR Release Date: October 14, 2005

Effective Date: January 1, 2006

Related CR Transmittal #: 710

Implementation Date: January 3, 2006

Annual Update of HCPCS Codes Used for Home Health Consolidated Billing Enforcement

Provider Types Affected

All Medicare providers billing carriers, including durable medical equipment regional carriers (DMERCs), regional home health intermediaries (RHHIs), or fiscal intermediaries (FIs), for medical supply or therapy services.

Provider Action Needed

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) periodically updates the lists of HCPCS codes subject to the consolidated billing provision of the Home Health Prospective Payment System (HH PPS). This article provides the annual HH consolidated billing update effective January 1, 2006. Affected providers should be aware of these changes.

Background

Section 1842(b)(6) of the Social Security Act (SSA) requires that payment for home health services provided under a home health plan of care be made to the home health agency (HHA.) As a result, billing for all such items and services is to be made by a single HHA overseeing that plan. This HHA is known as the primary agency for HH PPS for billing purposes.

Services appearing on this list that are submitted on claims to Medicare contractors will not be paid separately on dates when a beneficiary for whom such a service is being billed is in a home health episode (i.e., under a home health plan of care administered by an HHA). Exceptions include the following:

- Therapies performed by physicians;
- Supplies incidental to physician services; and
- Supplies used in institutional settings.

Disclaimer

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Medicare periodically publishes Routine Update Notifications, which contain updated lists of non-routine supply and therapy codes that must be included in HH consolidated billing. The lists are always updated annually, effective January 1, as a result of changes in HCPCS codes that Medicare also publishes annually. This list may also be updated as frequently as quarterly if required by the creation of new HCPCS codes during the year.

Additional Information

CR4114 provides the annual HH consolidated billing update effective January 1, 2006. The following table describes the HCPCS codes and the specific changes to each that this notification is implementing on January 3, 2006:

Code	Description of Code	Type Change	Replacement Code or Code Being Replaced
Non-Routine Supplies			
A4656	Needle, any size each	Delete	Replacement code: A4215 with revised definition (code A4215 is already on HH CB list.)
A5119	Skin barrier wipes box pr	Delete	Replacement code: A5120
A6025	Gel sheet for dermal or epidermal application (e.g., silicone, hydrogel, other)	Delete	
A6457	Tubular dressing with or without elastic, any width, per linear yard	Add	
A4412	Ostomy pouch, drainable, high output, for use on a barrier with flange (two-piece system), without filter, each	Add	
A5120	Skin barrier, wipes or swabs, each	Add	Replaces code A5119
A4363	Ostomy clamp, any type, replacement only, each	Add	
A4411	Ostomy skin barrier, solid 4x4 or equivalent, extended wear, with built-in convexity, each	Add	
Therapies – No Update			

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The last update to the HH consolidated billing was issued under Transmittal 340, CR3525. The related *Medlearn Matters* article, MM3525, may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/matters/mmarticles/2005/MM3525.pdf> on the CMS web site.

For complete details, please see the official instruction issued to your carrier/DMERC/RHHI/intermediary regarding this change. That instruction may be found by going to:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/transmittals/comm_date_dsc.asp on the CMS web site. From that web page, look for CR4114 in the CR NUM column on the right, and click on the file for that CR.

A complete historical listing of codes subject to HH consolidated billing can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/providers/hhapps/> on the CMS web site. The last bullet on this page contains a link to download the list.

If you have any questions, please contact your carrier/DMERC/RHHI/intermediary at their toll-free number, which may be found at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/tollnums.asp> on the CMS web site.

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