



Announcement

CHANGE
HEALTHCARE

May 15, 2020

DME MACs and CMS COVID-19 Updates

Dear Valued Customer,

Change Healthcare is committed to keeping you informed regarding the ongoing publications related to COVID-19. The details are rapidly changing, and these CSAs are one way we are sharing the details that pertain specifically to our pharmacy customers.

This notification is to inform you of the following items recently published by CMS, HHS, and the DME MACs as they relate to pharmacies.

Also included is an outline of previously published notifications to help consolidate all COVID-19 items into one reference guide.

(The below details contain content directly from publications provided from the above sources)

New / Updated Items of Interest

1. Medicare Pharmacies and Other Suppliers May Temporarily Enroll as Independent Clinical Diagnostic Laboratories to Help Address COVID-19 Testing

CMS has published information for pharmacies and other suppliers that wish to enroll in Medicare temporarily as independent clinical diagnostic laboratories to help address the need for COVID-19 testing. Interested pharmacies and suppliers will need to apply for a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) certificate. CMS wants to ensure that laboratories located in the United States applying for a CLIA certificate are able to begin testing for COVID-19 as quickly as possible.

Click [here](#) for the complete MLN Matters article.

Click [here](#) for a CMS Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) reference guide.

Click [here](#) for NCPA Member Summary of CMS Rules Regarding Pharmacists Ability to Provide COVID-19 Testing.

2. Extension of Payment for Section 3712 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic

Security Act (CARES Act)

The higher fee schedule amounts required under the CARES Act for dates of service March 6, 2020 through December 31, 2020 or through the duration of the PHE, whichever is later have been enforced.

CMS is currently working to implement the retroactive payments required by section 3712(b) of CARES for dates of service back to March 6, 2020

There is no action required by suppliers at this time. Details pertaining to the updated fee schedule have been previously published in CSA 050820A.

3. CMS Increases Medicare Payment for High-Production Coronavirus Lab Tests

CMS announced that Medicare will nearly double payment for certain lab tests that use high-throughput technologies to rapidly diagnose large numbers of COVID-19 cases. This is another action the Trump Administration is taking to rapidly expand COVID-19 testing. Along with the March 30 announcement that Medicare will pay new specimen collection fees for COVID-19 testing, CMS's actions will expand capability to test more vulnerable populations, like nursing home patients, quickly and provide results faster. Medicare will pay laboratories for the tests at \$100 effective April 14, 2020, through the duration of the COVID-19 national emergency.

Complete details located in this [Press Release](#).

4. Billing of Part B Drugs and Enteral Nutrition to DME MACs During COVID-19 Pandemic – Dispensing Amounts – Revised

Under current Medicare rules, for immunosuppressive drugs used after an organ transplant, oral anticancer drugs, intravenous immune globulin (IVIG), and enteral nutrition, utilization requirements generally limit dispensing amounts to a 30-day supply. With the recent COVID-19 pandemic, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), under their National Emergency authority, is allowing Medicare beneficiaries to obtain amounts of Part B drugs and enteral nutrition products in excess of the current monthly (30 day) limitation. This change is effective for claims with dates of service on or after March 1, 2020.

Click [here](#) for additional details.

Change Healthcare has adjusted the MedRx day-supply edits to accommodate the adjusted supply limitations for those drugs indicated in the above publication, which now includes the addition of Enteral Nutrition.

In order to allow claims for these items to process more than a 30-day supply for the Medicare Part B drug categories referenced by the DME MACs, the following needs to be provided:

- The 'CR' Modifier needs to be submitted in the Procedure Modifier Code field: 459-ER.
- The COVID-19 Narrative must be provided following your normal process for submitting narratives. If entering the narrative on your own using the MedRx Secure website, check to see if a narrative already exists, and then add the prefix

“COVID-19,” to the beginning of any existing narrative, rather than replacing the narrative on file.

Previously Published CSAs Related to COVID-19

CSA Title	CSA Publication #	CSA Date
COVID-19 Medicare Day Supply Adjustment	CSA 032020d	March 20, 2020
Financial Payment Changes	CSA 040220e	April 2, 2020
DME MACs and CMS COVID-19 Updates <i>(Privacy over Paperwork – F2F, PA’s, Accreditation, Signature Requirement, Audit suspension)</i>	CSA 041020b	April 10, 2020
DME MACs and CMS COVID-19 Updates <i>(HHS Authorizes Pharmacies to Administer COVID Tests, 2% Sequestration suspended, Accelerated Advanced Payment forms)</i>	CSA 041620a	April 16, 2020
DME MACs and CMS COVID-19 Updates <i>(CARES Act, NC Medicaid flexibilities, Multi-Function Ventilators E0467)</i>	CSA 042420b	April 24, 2020
DME MACs and CMS COVID-19 Updates <i>(2% Sequestration, Suspension of Advanced Payments, HHS Provider Relief Fund, Claims Reimbursement for Uninsured, TPE Suspended)</i>	CSA 042920b	April 29, 2020
DME MACs and CMS COVID-19 Updates <i>(Second Round of Healthcare System Changes, HRSA Uninsured Reimbursement Program, NCPDP Guidance for COVID-19 Testing)</i>	CSA 050820L	May 8, 2020
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Releases <i>(CMS Releases an Updated Durable Medical Equipment Fee Schedule)</i>	CSA 050820A	May 8, 2020

Change Healthcare continues to monitor this rapidly evolving situation and will provide updates as circumstances change.

Change Healthcare is proud to be your business partner and remains committed to your success.

Thanks for your attention to this announcement,

Change Healthcare

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