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# RAILROAD MEDICARE ADVISORY

Latest Part B News for Railroad Medicare

February 2023  
Volume 2023, Issue 02

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[palmettogba.com/rr](https://palmettogba.com/rr)

The *Medicare Advisory* contains coverage, billing and other information for Railroad Medicare. This information is not intended to constitute legal advice. It is our official notice to those we serve concerning their responsibilities and obligations as mandated by Medicare regulations and guidelines. This information is readily available at no cost on the Palmetto GBA website. It is the responsibility of each facility to obtain this information and to follow the guidelines. The *Railroad Medicare Advisory* includes information provided by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and is current at the time of publication. The information is subject to change at any time. This bulletin should be shared with all health care practitioners and managerial members of the provider staff. Bulletins are available at no-cost from our website at <https://www.PalmettoGBA.com/rr>.

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A RRB-Contracted Specialty  
Medicare Administrative Contractor



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## Help Us Improve Your Experience

How can Palmetto GBA serve you better? Let us know how we're doing by completing our MAC Customer Experience survey. This video shares the importance of your feedback and how to access the surveys available. View at

<https://bit.ly/3WegZzy>

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# Need to speak with Railroad Medicare?

Call our Provider Contact Center toll-free 888-355-9165 at for Customer Service inquiries, technical support for EDI and the eServices portal, Provider Enrollment inquiries, and to request a Telephone Reopening.

Railroad Medicare representatives are available to handle provider inquiries Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for all time zones with the exception of Pacific Time (PT) which receives service from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. PT. The PCC will be unavailable during weekly training and holidays.

When you call the toll-free 888-355-9165 line, the system provides the following selections:

## **Press 1 for Claim Status, Eligibility or a Duplicate Remittance Advice**

**Please note:** Claim status, beneficiary eligibility and duplicate remittance advice should be requested through our Interactive Voice Response (IVR) unit at 1-877-288-7600 or through our secure internet portal, eServices, at [https://www.onlineproviderservices.com/ecx\\_improvev2/](https://www.onlineproviderservices.com/ecx_improvev2/).

## **Press 2 for Technical Support Regarding EDI or eServices, then**

- Press 1 for eServices inquiries
- Press 2 for EFT
- Press 0 for technical assistance with electronic billing, Electronic Remittance Advice (ERA) or other EDI issues

## **Press 3 for Provider Enrollment**

## **Press 4 for Telephone Reopening, then**

- Press 1 for the explanation of a denied claim
- Press 0 to request a Telephone Reopening to correct minor errors or omissions

## **Press 5 for Customer Service**

- Press 0 to speak to a Customer Service Advocate

## **Press 6 for Our Mailing Address and Hours of Operation**

## **Press 9 to repeat this menu**

# Help Us to Help You: Have Your Provider and Patient Information Ready When You Call Customer Service

Having the required provider and beneficiary authentication elements available when you call Customer Service will save you time and help us handle your inquiry more efficiently.

## **You will be asked for the following information about the provider:**

- The provider's National Provider Identifier (NPI)
- The provider's Railroad Medicare Provider Transaction Access Number (PTAN)
- The provider's Tax Identification Number (TIN): last five digits

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) requires authentication of these provider elements whenever a request would involve the disclosure of personally-identifiable information (PII) or protected health information (PHI). If you are not able to provide the required elements, our Customer Service Advocates may ask you to obtain the information and call back.

Don't have your Railroad Medicare PTAN? Providers can use our PTAN Lookup and Request Tool to lookup their Railroad Medicare PTAN. If you are employed by a clearinghouse or third-party biller, you must contact the provider to obtain the Railroad Medicare PTAN. See our Using Railroad Medicare's Online PTAN Lookup and Request Tool article for details <https://www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/rr.nsf/DID/AK7K447304>.

## **You will be asked to provide the following information about the beneficiary:**

- The beneficiary's Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI)
- The beneficiary's last name
- The beneficiary's first name or initial, and either
- The claim date(s) of service (for post-claim inquiries, such as reason for denial or rejection) or
- The beneficiary's date of birth (for pre-claim inquiries, such as entitlement requests/issues)

The CMS requires authentication of these beneficiary elements prior to disclosing PII or PHI about a Medicare beneficiary to an authenticated provider. All information must match. If you are not able to provide the required elements, our Customer Service Advocates may ask you to obtain the information and call back.

Don't have the patient's MBI? There are three ways you and your office staff can get MBIs:

1. Ask your patient
2. Use the MBI Look-up tool on the Palmetto GBA eServices portal or your local Medicare Administrative Contractor's portal
  - You can look up MBIs for your Medicare patients when they don't or can't give them. You must have your patient's first name, last name, date of birth and Social Security Number (SSN) to search. If a patient doesn't want to release their SSN to you, the patient will need to provide you with their MBI.
3. Check a remittance advice
  - If you previously saw a patient and got a claim payment decision based on a claim submission with a HICN before January 1, 2020, look at that remittance advice. We returned the MBI on every remittance advice when a provider submitted a claim with a valid and active HICN from October 1, 2018 through December 31, 2019.

Resource: MLN SE18006 — New Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) Get It, Use It at

<https://tinyurl.com/SE18006>

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## Provider Customer Service Center Training and Closure Dates

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) have approved the RRB Specialty Medicare Administrative Contractor (RRB SMAC) to close up to eight hours per month for provider Customer Service Advocates (CSAs) training and/or staff development. The goal is to help CSAs improve the consistency and accuracy of their responses to provider questions; enhance their awareness and understanding of Medicare policies and issues; and facilitate CSAs' retention of the facts of their training by increasing its frequency.

When our CSAs participate in training and developmental sessions on Thursdays of each month, you may use our online provider portal called eServices. eServices provides claim status, duplicate remittances, patient eligibility and much more. Register now at <https://www.PalmettoGBA.com/eServices>. Please refer to the training schedule below for specific closure dates and times.

| Date              | Phones Closed                                |
|-------------------|--|
| January 26, 2023  | PCC closed for training / 2:30 to 4:30 PM ET |
| February 2, 2023  | PCC closed for training / 2:30 to 4:30 PM ET |
| February 9, 2023  | PCC closed for training / 2:30 to 4:30 PM ET |
| February 16, 2023 | PCC closed for training / 2:30 to 4:30 PM ET |
| February 23, 2023 | PCC closed for training / 2:30 to 4:30 PM ET |
| May 29, 2023      | Office closed / Memorial Day                 |
| July 4, 2023      | Office closed / Independence Day             |
| September 4, 2023 | Office closed / Labor Day                    |
| November 23, 2023 | Office closed / Thanksgiving Day             |
| November 24, 2023 | Office closed / Day After Thanksgiving       |
| December 25, 2023 | Office closed / Christmas Eve                |
| December 26, 2023 | Office closed / Christmas Day                |

Please note that we will attempt to provide advance notice of any changes to the above training schedule via the website, IVR features and automatic email notices.

If you have not already done so, we encourage you to sign up for automatic email notices of updates to our website. Subscribing to the email update is the fastest way to find out about Medicare changes that may affect you. There is no charge for the service, and we will not share your email address with others. To register, go to Email Updates at <https://www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/rr.nsf/M/Registration>.

# How Can I Tell if a Patient Has Railroad Medicare?

Railroad Medicare beneficiaries historically have had unique Medicare numbers, which made them easily distinguishable from Social Security Medicare patients. With today's Medicare Beneficiary Identifiers (MBIs), the you can't tell the difference by the MBI. Instead, the difference lies in the design of the Medicare card.

The Medicare card of a person with Railroad Medicare is unique. The Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) issues Railroad Medicare cards with the RRB logo in the upper left corner, and 'Railroad Retirement Board' at the bottom, as shown here. Railroad Medicare cards also have a QR code on the front lower right-hand corner of the cards, while Medicare cards will have a QR code on the back of the card. Make sure to ask your patients for their new cards and program your system to identify Railroad Medicare patients based on their cards, if possible.



If you verify your patient's eligibility electronically, CMS will return a message on the eligibility transaction response for a Fee-For-Service (FFS) Railroad Medicare MBI inquiry that will read "Railroad Retirement Medicare Beneficiary" in 271 Loop 2110C, Segment MSG.

If you verify a patient's eligibility using an MBI in the Palmetto GBA eServices online provider portal, the portal will return the "Railroad Retirement Medicare Beneficiary" message in the Additional Information field of the Eligibility sub-tab, as shown below.

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**PALMETTO GBA eServices** CMS

Home Claims Remittance Eligibility MBI Lookup Financial Tools Messages Forms eReview Support Admin My Account

Get Status You have 1 unread message(s) and 0 alerts Help

Eligibility Inquiry

DOB: DOD:

Inquiry Eligibility Deductibles/Caps Preventive Plan Coverage MSP Hospice/HomeHealth Inpatient QMB All screens

**Part A Eligibility**

Effective Date: Termination Date:

**Part B Eligibility**

Effective Date: Termination Date:

**Inactive Periods**

Effective Date: Termination Date:

**Beneficiary Address**

Address Line 1: Address Line 2:  
City: State:  
Zip:

**End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD)**

Coverage Period Effective Date: Coverage Period End Date:  
Dialysis Start Date: Dialysis End Date:  
Transplant Effective Date:

**Additional Information**

RAILROAD RETIREMENT MEDICARE BENEFICIARY

For more information on the new Medicare cards and using the MBIs, see the following Medicare Learning Network (MLN) resources:

- MBI website: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/New-Medicare-Card/index>
- MLN SE18006 - New Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) Get It, Use It: <https://tinyurl.com/SE18006>



# New Medicare Part B Immunosuppressant Drug Benefit

MLN Matters Number: MM12804 Revised

Related CR Release Date: December 22, 2022

Related CR Transmittal Number: R11764GI, R11764CP, and R11764BP

Related Change Request (CR) Number: 12804

Effective Date: January 1, 2023

Implementation Date: January 3, 2023

Related CR Title: New Medicare Part B Immunosuppressant Drug Benefit (PBID) - Implementation

Note: We revised this Article due to a revised CR 12804. The CR revision didn't change the substance of the Article. We did revise the CR release date, transmittal numbers, and web addresses of the transmittals. All other information is the same.

## Provider Types Affected

This MLN Matters Article is for physicians, providers, and suppliers billing claims to Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for immunosuppressant drugs they provide to Medicare ESRD patients.

## Provider Action Needed

Make sure your billing staff knows about the new benefit effective January 1, 2023:

- Extension of Medicare coverage for immunosuppressant drugs beyond 36 months for certain patients with kidney transplants
- Coverage of premiums and cost sharing for some of these patients

## Background

Most individuals with ESRD are eligible for Medicare, regardless of age. CMS considers a kidney transplant as the best treatment for ESRD. When a patient gets a kidney transplant, Medicare coverage extends for 36 months after the month in which the patient gets a transplant.

Medicare Part B patients who had Medicare coverage when they had their transplant have coverage for immunosuppressive drug therapy for as long as they remain eligible and enrolled in Part B. After the 36 months, Medicare coverage ends unless the patient is otherwise entitled to Medicare (for example, if they're now eligible based on age or disability). Once ESRD-only patients exhaust their 36 months of Medicare eligibility, they lose Part B coverage for immunosuppressive drugs and must pay for the medications out of pocket, through other insurance, or with third-party assistance. The cost of paying for this drug therapy could be impossible for those who lose Medicare coverage after 36 months and who don't have another source of healthcare coverage.

If an individual doesn't take these immunosuppressive drugs, it's possible that the transplant rejects and the individual will be at risk of developing ESRD again. This would lead to further Medicare coverage, dialysis, and potentially another transplant.

Section 402 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA)

<https://www.congress.gov/116/plaws/publ260/PLAW-116publ260.pdf#page=1819> makes an exception for eligibility for enrollment under Part B solely for the purposes of coverage of immunosuppressive drugs described in Section 1861(s)(2)(J) of the Social Security Act (the Act)

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[https://www.ssa.gov/OP\\_Home/ssact/title18/1861.htm](https://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title18/1861.htm). Effective January 1, 2023, this provision allows individuals whose Medicare coverage based on ESRD ends 36 months after the month of a successful kidney transplant to keep enrollment under Part B only for the immunosuppressive drugs described in section 1861(s)(2)(J) of the Act with no time limit.

We refer to this benefit as the Part B immunosuppressive drug benefit or Part B-ID or PBID. The PBID benefit is unique because it's classified as a Part B benefit, but it provides coverage limited to immunosuppressive drugs. Only a small number of Medicare patients are eligible. Most rules and requirements applicable to Part B also apply to the PBID benefit. Patients entitled to the PBID benefit wouldn't get Medicare coverage for any other items or services. They're only eligible for the immunosuppressive drug coverage if they aren't enrolled in certain other types of coverage (for example, a group health plan, TRICARE, or a Medicaid state plan that covers immunosuppressive drugs).

Section 402 of the CAA doesn't make changes to payment limits for applicable billing and payment codes associated with immunosuppressive drugs, supplying fees to pharmacies (as described in Section 1842(o)(6) of the Act) [https://www.ssa.gov/OP\\_Home/ssact/title18/1842.htm](https://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title18/1842.htm), or applicable patient deductible and coinsurance amounts. Section 402 of the CAA also amends the Medicare Savings Programs (MSP) under Sections 1905(a)(1)(A) [https://www.ssa.gov/OP\\_Home/ssact/title19/1905.htm](https://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title19/1905.htm) and 1902(a)(10)(E) [https://www.ssa.gov/OP\\_Home/ssact/title19/1902.htm](https://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title19/1902.htm) of the Act to pay some of the Part B premiums and, in some cases, all the cost sharing for certain low-income individuals under the MSP.

A small number of individuals will enroll in the PBID benefit each year. We anticipate that most will also qualify for the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary group, the MSP group that covers PBID premiums, deductibles, and coinsurance.

PBID enrollees will get a new Medicare card that will identify them as only eligible for immunosuppressant drugs under the PBID benefit. Coverage is limited to those drugs medically necessary and appropriate for the specific purpose of preventing or treating the rejection of a transplanted organ or tissue.

Drugs used for the treatment of conditions that may result from an immunosuppressive drug regimen (for example, antibiotics, antihypertensives, analgesics, vitamins, and other drugs that aren't directly related to organ rejection) aren't covered under this benefit.

The drugs must be FDA-approved, be available only through a prescription, and belong to 1 of the following 3 categories:

- A drug approved for marketing and labeled as an immunosuppressive drug
- A drug, such as a corticosteroid, approved and labeled for use in conjunction with immunosuppressive drugs to treat or prevent the rejection of a patient's transplanted organ or tissue
- A drug that a Part B MAC decides is reasonable and necessary or for use in conjunction with those immunosuppressive drugs for the purpose of preventing or treating the rejection of a patient's transplanted organ or tissue.

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Chapter 15, Section 50.5.1, of the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual

<https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/bp102c15.pdf#page=73> states the covered immunosuppressive drugs labeled as such and FDA-approved for marketing include (The list below isn't all inclusive):

- Sandimmune (cyclosporine), Sandoz Pharmaceutical
- Imuran (azathioprine), Burroughs Wellcome
- Atgam (antithymocyte globulin), Upjohn
- Orthoclone OKT3 (Muromonab-CD3), Ortho Pharmaceutical
- Prograf (tacrolimus), Fujisawa USA, Inc
- Celicept (mycophenolate mefetil, Roche Laboratories
- Daclizumab (Zenapax)
- Cyclophosphamide (Cytosan)
- Prednisone
- Prednisolone

Note: This is an exception to the standing drug policy which allows coverage of FDA-approved drugs for nonlabelled uses, where the uses are reasonable and necessary in an individual case.

### More Information

We issued CR 12804 to your MAC as the official instruction for this change. The CR consists of 3 transmittals:

- R11764BP updates the Medicare Benefit Policy manual  
<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/r11764bp.pdf>
- R11764CP updates the Medicare Claims Processing manual  
<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/r11764cp.pdf>
- R11764GI updates the Medicare General Information, Eligibility, and Entitlement manual  
<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/r11764gi.pdf>

For more information, find your MAC's website. <https://www.cms.gov/MAC-info>

### Document History

| Date of Change    | Description  |
|-------------------|--|
| December 23, 2022 | We revised this Article due to a revised CR 12804. The CR revision didn't change the substance of the Article. We did revise the CR release date, transmittal numbers, and web addresses of the transmittals. All other information is the same. |
| December 16, 2022 | Initial article released.  |

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## 2023 Jurisdiction List for DMEPOS HCPCS Codes- January

NOTE: Deleted codes are valid for dates of service on or before the date of deletion.

NOTE: Updated codes are in bold.

NOTE: The jurisdiction list includes codes that are not payable by Medicare. Please consult the Medicare contractor in whose jurisdiction a claim would be filed in order to determine coverage under Medicare.

NOTE: All HCPCS code listed have DME or joint MAC Jurisdiction. Any other codes not listed as DME MAC only or dual DME MAC/Part B MAC jurisdiction shall be considered to be A/B MAC (Part B) only jurisdiction.

| HCPCS         | DESCRIPTION  | JURISDICTION   | COMMENT |
|---------------|--|--|---------|
| A4206 - A4209 | Medical, Surgical, and Self-Administered Injection Supplies  | Part B MAC if incident to a physician's service (not separately payable). If other, DME MAC. |         |
| A4210         | Needle Free Injection Device                                 | DME MAC  |         |
| A4211         | Medical, Surgical, and Self-Administered Injection Supplies  | Part B MAC if incident to a physician's service (not separately payable). If other, DME MAC. |         |
| A4213 - A4215 | Medical , Surgical, and Self-Administered Injection Supplies | Part B MAC if incident to a physician's service (not separately payable). If other, DME MAC. |         |
| A4216 - A4218 | Saline   | Part B MAC if incident to a physician's service (not separately payable). If other, DME MAC. |         |
| A4221 - A4239 | Self-Administered Injection and Diabetic Supplies            | DME MAC  |         |
| A4244 - A4250 | Medical, Surgical, and Self-Administered Injection Supplies  | Part B MAC if incident to a physician's service (not separately payable). If other, DME MAC. |         |
| A4252 - A4259 | Diabetic Supplies  | DME MAC  |         |
| A4265         | Paraffin   | Part B MAC if incident to a physician's service (not separately payable). If other, DME MAC. |         |
| A4280         | Accessory for Breast Prosthesis                              | DME MAC  |         |

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| HCPCS         | DESCRIPTION                                | JURISDICTION  | COMMENT |
|---------------|--|---|---------|
| A4281 - A4286 | Accessory for Breast Pump                  | DME MAC   |         |
| A4305 - A4306 | Disposable Drug Delivery System            | Part B MAC if incident to a physician's service (not separately payable). If other, DME MAC.  |         |
| A4310 - A4358 | Incontinence Supplies/<br>Urinary Supplies | If provided in the physician's office for a temporary condition, the item is incident to the physician's service & billed to the Part B MAC.<br>If provided in the physician's office or other place of service for a permanent condition, the item is a prosthetic device & billed to the DME MAC. |         |
| A4360 - A4437 | Urinary Supplies                           | If provided in the physician's office for a temporary condition, the item is incident to the physician's service & billed to the Part B MAC.<br>If provided in the physician's office or other place of service for a permanent condition, the item is a prosthetic device & billed to the DME MAC. |         |
| A4450 - A4452 | Tape; Adhesive Remover                     | Part B MAC if incident to a physician's service (not separately payable), or if supply for implanted prosthetic device. If other, DME MAC.  |         |
| A4453         | Enema Catheter                             | DME MAC   |         |
| A4455 - A4456 | Tape; Adhesive Remover                     | Part B MAC if incident to a physician's   |         |

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| HCPCS         | DESCRIPTION                                     | JURISDICTION   | COMMENT |
|---------------|---|--|---------|
|               |   | service (not separately payable), or if supply for implanted prosthetic device. If other, DME MAC. |         |
| A4458-A4459   | Enema Bag/System                                | DME MAC  |         |
| A4461-A4463   | Surgical Dressing Holders                       | Part B MAC if incident to a physician's service (not separately payable). If other, DME MAC.       |         |
| A4465 - A4467 | Non-elastic Binder and Garment, Strap, Covering | DME MAC  |         |
| A4481         | Tracheostomy Supply                             | Part B MAC if incident to a physician's service (not separately payable). If other, DME MAC.       |         |
| A4483         | Moisture Exchanger                              | DME MAC  |         |
| A4490 - A4510 | Surgical Stockings                              | DME MAC  |         |
| A4520         | Diapers   | DME MAC  |         |
| A4553 - A4554 | Underpads                                       | DME MAC  |         |
| A4555 - A4558 | Electrodes; Lead Wires; Conductive Paste        | Part B MAC if incident to a physician's service (not separately payable). If other, DME MAC.       |         |
| A4559         | Coupling Gel                                    | Part B MAC if incident to a physician's service (not separately payable). If other, DME MAC.       |         |
| A4575         | Topical Hyperbaric Oxygen Chamber, Disposable   | DME MAC  |         |
| A4595         | TENS Supplies                                   | Part B MAC if incident to a physician's service (not separately payable). If other,                |         |



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| HCPCS         | DESCRIPTION                                     | JURISDICTION  | COMMENT |
|---------------|---|---|---------|
|               |   | DME MAC.  |         |
| A4596         | Electrical Stimulator Supplies                  | DME MAC   |         |
| A4600         | Sleeve for Intermittent Limb Compression Device | DME MAC   |         |
| A4601-A4602   | Lithium Replacement Batteries                   | DME MAC   |         |
| A4604         | Tubing for Positive Airway Pressure Device      | DME MAC   |         |
| A4605         | Tracheal Suction Catheter                       | DME MAC   |         |
| A4606         | Oxygen Probe for Oximeter                       | DME MAC   |         |
| A4608         | Transtracheal Oxygen Catheter                   | DME MAC   |         |
| A4611 - A4613 | Oxygen Equipment Batteries and Supplies         | DME MAC   |         |
| A4614         | Peak Flow Rate Meter                            | Part B MAC if incident to a physician's service (not separately payable). If other, DME MAC.  |         |
| A4615 - A4629 | Oxygen & Tracheostomy Supplies                  | Part B MAC if incident to a physician's service (not separately payable). If other, DME MAC.  |         |
| A4630 - A4640 | DME Supplies                                    | DME MAC   |         |
| A4649         | Miscellaneous Surgical Supplies                 | Part B MAC if incident to a physician's service (not separately payable), or if supply for implanted prosthetic device or implanted DME. If other, DME MAC. |         |

## 2023 Jurisdiction List for DMEPOS HCPCS Codes- January

NOTE: Deleted codes are valid for dates of service on or before the date of deletion.

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| HCPCS         | DESCRIPTION                                 | JURISDICTION  | COMMENT |
|---------------|---|---|---------|
| A4651 - A4932 | Supplies for ESRD                           | DME MAC (not separately payable)  |         |
| A5051 - A5093 | Additional Ostomy Supplies                  | If provided in the physician's office for a temporary condition, the item is incident to the physician's service & billed to the Part B MAC.<br>If provided in the physician's office or other place of service for a permanent condition, the item is a prosthetic device & billed to the DME MAC. |         |
| A5102 - A5200 | Additional Incontinence and Ostomy Supplies | If provided in the physician's office for a temporary condition, the item is incident to the physician's service & billed to the Part B MAC.<br>If provided in the physician's office or other place of service for a permanent condition, the item is a prosthetic device & billed to the DME MAC. |         |
| A5500 - A5514 | Therapeutic Shoes                           | DME MAC   |         |
| A6000         | Non-Contact Wound Warming Cover             | DME MAC   |         |
| A6010-A6024   | Surgical Dressing                           | Part B MAC if incident to a physician's service (not separately payable) or if supply for implanted prosthetic device or implanted DME. If other, DME MAC.  |         |
| A6025         | Silicone Gel Sheet                          | Part B MAC if incident to a physician's service (not separately payable) or if supply   |         |

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| HCPCS         | DESCRIPTION                    | JURISDICTION  | COMMENT |
|---------------|--------------------------------|---|---------|
|               |                                | for implanted prosthetic device or implanted DME. If other, DME MAC.  |         |
| A6154 - A6411 | Surgical Dressing              | Part B MAC if incident to a physician's service (not separately payable) or if supply for implanted prosthetic device or implanted DME. If other, DME MAC.  |         |
| A6412         | Eye Patch                      | Part B MAC if incident to a physician's service (not separately payable) or if supply for implanted prosthetic device or implanted DME. If other, DME MAC.  |         |
| A6413         | Adhesive Bandage               | Part B MAC if incident to a physician's service (not separately payable) or if supply for implanted prosthetic device or implanted DME. If other, DME MAC.  |         |
| A6441 - A6457 | Surgical Dressings             | Part B MAC if incident to a physician's service (not separately payable), or if supply for implanted prosthetic device or implanted DME. If other, DME MAC. |         |
| A6501-A6512   | Surgical Dressing              | Part B MAC if incident to a physician's service (not separately payable) or if supply for implanted prosthetic device or implanted DME. If other, DME MAC   |         |
| A6513         | Compression Burn Mask          | DME MAC   |         |
| A6530 - A6549 | Compression Gradient Stockings | DME MAC   |         |
| A6550         | Supplies for Negative Pressure | DME MAC   |         |

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| HCPCS         | DESCRIPTION  | JURISDICTION  | COMMENT   |
|---------------|--|---|---|
|               | Wound Therapy Electrical Pump                                      |   |   |
| A7000 - A7002 | Accessories for Suction Pumps                                      | DME MAC   |   |
| A7003 - A7039 | Accessories for Nebulizers, Aspirators and Ventilators             | DME MAC   |   |
| A7044 - A7047 | Respiratory Accessories  | DME MAC   |   |
| A7501-A7527   | Tracheostomy Supplies  | DME MAC   |   |
| A8000-A8004   | Protective Helmets   | DME MAC   |   |
| A9270         | Noncovered Items or Services                                       | DME MAC   |   |
| A9272         | Disposable Wound Suction Pump                                      | DME MAC   |   |
| A9273         | Hot Water Bottles, Ice Caps or Collars, and Heat and/or Cold Wraps | DME MAC   |   |
| A9274 - A9278 | Glucose Monitoring   | DME MAC   | <b>A9276-A9278 made valid for Medicare 1/1/23</b> |
| A9279         | Monitoring Feature/Device  | DME MAC   |   |
| A9280         | Alarm Device   | DME MAC   |   |
| A9281         | Reaching/Grabbing Device   | DME MAC   |   |
| A9282         | Wig  | DME MAC   |   |
| A9283         | Foot Off Loading Device  | DME MAC   |   |
| A9284- A9286  | Non-electric Spirometer, Inversion Devices and Hygienic Items      | DME MAC   |   |
| A9300         | Exercise Equipment   | DME MAC   |   |
| A9900         | Miscellaneous DME Supply or Accessory                              | Part B MAC if used with implanted DME. If other, DME MAC. |   |
| A9901         | Delivery   | DME MAC   |   |

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| HCPCS         | DESCRIPTION                                 | JURISDICTION  | COMMENT |
|---------------|---|---|---------|
| A9999         | Miscellaneous DME Supply or Accessory       | Part B MAC if used with implanted DME. If other, DME MAC. |         |
| B4034 - B9999 | Enteral and Parenteral Therapy              | DME MAC   |         |
| E0100 - E0105 | Canes                                       | DME MAC   |         |
| E0110 - E0118 | Crutches                                    | DME MAC   |         |
| E0130 - E0159 | Walkers                                     | DME MAC   |         |
| E0160 - E0175 | Commodes                                    | DME MAC   |         |
| E0181 - E0199 | Decubitus Care Equipment                    | DME MAC   |         |
| E0200 - E0239 | Heat/Cold Applications                      | DME MAC   |         |
| E0240 - E0248 | Bath and Toilet Aids                        | DME MAC   |         |
| E0249         | Pad for Heating Unit                        | DME MAC   |         |
| E0250 - E0304 | Hospital Beds                               | DME MAC   |         |
| E0305 - E0326 | Hospital Bed Accessories                    | DME MAC   |         |
| E0328 - E0329 | Pediatric Hospital Beds                     | DME MAC   |         |
| E0350 - E0352 | Electronic Bowel Irrigation System          | DME MAC   |         |
| E0370         | Heel Pad                                    | DME MAC   |         |
| E0371 - E0373 | Decubitus Care Equipment                    | DME MAC   |         |
| E0424 - E0484 | Oxygen and Related Respiratory Equipment    | DME MAC   |         |
| E0485 - E0486 | Oral Device to Reduce Airway Collapsibility | DME MAC   |         |
| E0487         | Electric Spirometer                         | DME MAC   |         |
| E0500         | IPPB Machine                                | DME MAC   |         |

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| HCPCS         | DESCRIPTION                         | JURISDICTION | COMMENT |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|---------|
| E0550 - E0585 | Compressors/Nebulizers              | DME MAC      |         |
| E0600         | Suction Pump                        | DME MAC      |         |
| E0601         | CPAP Device                         | DME MAC      |         |
| E0602 - E0604 | Breast Pump                         | DME MAC      |         |
| E0605         | Vaporizer                           | DME MAC      |         |
| E0606         | Drainage Board                      | DME MAC      |         |
| E0607         | Home Blood Glucose Monitor          | DME MAC      |         |
| E0610 - E0615 | Pacemaker Monitor                   | DME MAC      |         |
| E0617         | External Defibrillator              | DME MAC      |         |
| E0618 - E0619 | Apnea Monitor                       | DME MAC      |         |
| E0620         | Skin Piercing Device                | DME MAC      |         |
| E0621 - E0636 | Patient Lifts                       | DME MAC      |         |
| E0637 - E0642 | Standing Devices/Lifts              | DME MAC      |         |
| E0650 - E0676 | Pneumatic Compressor and Appliances | DME MAC      |         |
| E0691 - E0694 | Ultraviolet Light Therapy Systems   | DME MAC      |         |
| E0700         | Safety Equipment                    | DME MAC      |         |
| E0705         | Transfer Board                      | DME MAC      |         |
| E0710         | Restraints                          | DME MAC      |         |
| E0720 - E0745 | Electrical Nerve Stimulators        | DME MAC      |         |
| E0747 - E0748 | Osteogenic Stimulators              | DME MAC      |         |
| E0755- E0770  | Stimulation Devices                 | DME MAC      |         |
| E0776         | IV Pole                             | DME MAC      |         |
| E0779 - E0780 | External Infusion Pumps             | DME MAC      |         |



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| HCPCS         | DESCRIPTION                                | JURISDICTION                                    | COMMENT |
|---------------|--|---|---------|
| E0781         | Ambulatory Infusion Pump                   | DME MAC   |         |
| E0784         | Infusion Pumps, Insulin                    | DME MAC   |         |
| E0791         | Parenteral Infusion Pump                   | DME MAC   |         |
| E0830         | Ambulatory Traction Device                 | DME MAC   |         |
| E0840 - E0900 | Traction Equipment                         | DME MAC   |         |
| E0910 - E0930 | Trapeze/Fracture Frame                     | DME MAC   |         |
| E0935 - E0936 | Passive Motion Exercise Device             | DME MAC   |         |
| E0940         | Trapeze Equipment                          | DME MAC   |         |
| E0941         | Traction Equipment                         | DME MAC   |         |
| E0942 - E0945 | Orthopedic Devices                         | DME MAC   |         |
| E0946 - E0948 | Fracture Frame                             | DME MAC   |         |
| E0950 - E1298 | Wheelchairs                                | DME MAC   |         |
| E1300 - E1310 | Whirlpool Equipment                        | DME MAC   |         |
| E1352 - E1392 | Additional Oxygen Related Equipment        | DME MAC   |         |
| E1399         | Miscellaneous DME                          | Part B MAC if implanted DME. If other, DME MAC. |         |
| E1405 - E1406 | Additional Oxygen Equipment                | DME MAC   |         |
| E1500 - E1625 | Artificial Kidney Machines and Accessories | DME MAC (not separately payable)                |         |
| E1630 - E1699 | Artificial Kidney Machines and Accessories | DME MAC (not separately payable)                |         |
| E1700 - E1702 | TMJ Device and Supplies                    | DME MAC   |         |
| E1800 - E1841 | Dynamic Flexion Devices                    | DME MAC   |         |

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| HCPCS         | DESCRIPTION  | JURISDICTION   | COMMENT |
|---------------|--|--|---------|
| E1902         | Communication Board  | DME MAC  |         |
| E2000         | Gastric Suction Pump   | DME MAC  |         |
| E2100 - E2103 | Blood Glucose Monitors with special Features: Continuous Glucose Monitor | DME MAC  |         |
| E2120         | Pulse Generator for Tympanic Treatment of Inner Ear                      | DME MAC  |         |
| E2201 - E2398 | Wheelchair Accessories   | DME MAC  |         |
| E2402         | Negative Pressure Wound Therapy Pump                                     | DME MAC  |         |
| E2500 - E2599 | Speech Generating Device   | DME MAC  |         |
| E2601 - E2633 | Wheelchair Cushions and Accessories                                      | DME MAC  |         |
| E8000 - E8002 | Gait Trainers  | DME MAC  |         |
| G0333         | Dispensing Fee   | DME MAC  |         |
| J0120 - J1094 | Injection  | Part B MAC if incident to a physician's service or used in an implanted infusion pump.<br>If other, DME MAC. |         |
| J1100-J2786   | Injection  | Part B MAC if incident to a physician's service or used in an implanted infusion pump.<br>If other, DME MAC. |         |
| J2788-J3570   | Injection  | Part B MAC if incident to a physician's service or used in an implanted infusion pump.<br>If other, DME MAC. |         |
| J7030 - J7131 | Miscellaneous Drugs and Solutions  | Part B MAC if incident to a physician's service or used in an implanted infusion pump.                       |         |

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| HCPCS         | DESCRIPTION   | JURISDICTION   | COMMENT |
|---------------|---|--|---------|
|               |   | If other, DME MAC.   |         |
| J7340         | Carbidopa/Levodopa  | Part B MAC if incident to a physician's service or used in an implanted infusion pump.<br>If other, DME MAC. |         |
| J7500 - J7599 | Immunosuppressive Drugs   | Part B MAC if incident to a physician's service or used in an implanted infusion pump.<br>If other, DME MAC. |         |
| J7604 - J7699 | Inhalation Solutions  | Part B MAC if incident to a physician's service. If other, DME MAC.  |         |
| J7799 -J7999  | NOC Drugs, Other than<br>Inhalation Drugs                                 | Part B MAC if incident to a physician's service or used in an implanted infusion pump. If other, DME MAC.    |         |
| J8498         | Anti-emetic Drug  | DME MAC  |         |
| J8499         | Prescription Drug, Oral, Non<br>Chemotherapeutic                          | Part B MAC if incident to a physician's service. If other, DME MAC.  |         |
| J8501 - J8999 | Oral Anti-Cancer Drugs  | DME MAC  |         |
| J9000 - J9999 | Chemotherapy Drugs  | Part B MAC if incident to a physician's service or used in an implanted infusion pump.<br>If other, DME MAC. |         |
| K0001 - K0108 | Wheelchairs   | DME MAC  |         |
| K0195         | Elevating Leg Rests   | DME MAC  |         |
| K0455         | Infusion Pump used for<br>Uninterrupted Administration of<br>Epoprostenal | DME MAC  |         |
| K0462         | Loaner Equipment  | DME MAC  |         |

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| HCPCS         | DESCRIPTION   | JURISDICTION  | COMMENT                               |
|---------------|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| K0552 - K0605 | External Infusion Pump Supplies & <del>Continuous Glucose Monitor</del> | DME MAC   | K0553 and K0554 discontinued 12/31/22 |
| K0606 - K0609 | Defibrillator Accessories   | DME MAC   |                                       |
| K0669         | Wheelchair Cushion  | DME MAC   |                                       |
| K0672         | Soft Interface for Orthosis   | DME MAC   |                                       |
| K0730         | Inhalation Drug Delivery System   | DME MAC   |                                       |
| K0733         | Power Wheelchair Accessory  | DME MAC   |                                       |
| K0738         | Oxygen Equipment  | DME MAC   |                                       |
| K0739         | Repair or Nonroutine Service for DME                                    | Part B MAC if implanted DME. If other, DME MAC  |                                       |
| K0740         | Repair or Nonroutine Service for Oxygen Equipment                       | DME MAC   |                                       |
| K0743 - K0746 | Suction Pump and Dressings  | DME MAC   |                                       |
| K0800 - K0899 | Power Mobility Devices  | DME MAC   |                                       |
| K0900         | Custom DME, other than Wheelchair                                       | DME MAC   |                                       |
| K1001- K1003  | Devices   | DME MAC   |                                       |
| K1004         | Devices   | DME MAC when the supplier considers the item DMEPOS. Part B MAC if the supplier considers the item something other than DMEPOS (e.g., supplies furnished incident to the professional service of a physician) |                                       |
| K1005- K1006  | Devices   | DME MAC   |                                       |
| K1007         | Devices   | DME MAC when the supplier considers the item DMEPOS. Part B MAC if the supplier considers the item something other than DMEPOS (e.g., supplies furnished incident to the professional service of a physician) |                                       |

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| HCPCS         | DESCRIPTION  | JURISDICTION  | COMMENT |
|---------------|--|---|---------|
| K1009         | Devices  | DME MAC   |         |
| K1013         | Devices  | Part B MAC if a supply for or inserted by a licensed healthcare provider. If other, DME MAC   |         |
| K1014-K1026   | Devices  | DME MAC   |         |
| K1027         | Devices  | DME MAC when the supplier considers the item DMEPOS. Part B MAC if the supplier considers the item something other than DMEPOS (e.g., supplies furnished incident to the professional service of a physician) |         |
| K1028-K1029   | Devices  | DME MAC   |         |
| K1031-K1033   | Devices  | DME MAC   |         |
| L0112 - L4631 | Orthotics & Devices                                      | DME MAC   |         |
| L5000 - L5999 | Lower Limb Prosthetics                                   | DME MAC   |         |
| L6000 - L7499 | Upper Limb Prosthetics                                   | DME MAC   |         |
| L7510 - L7520 | Repair of Prosthetic Device                              | Part B MAC if repair of implanted prosthetic device. If other, DME MAC.   |         |
| L7600 - L8485 | Prosthetics  | DME MAC   |         |
| L8499         | Unlisted Procedure for Miscellaneous Prosthetic Services | Part B MAC if implanted prosthetic device. If other, DME MAC.   |         |
| L8500 - L8501 | Artificial Larynx; Tracheostomy Speaking Valve           | DME MAC   |         |
| L8505         | Artificial Larynx Accessory                              | DME MAC   |         |

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| HCPCS         | DESCRIPTION   | JURISDICTION   | COMMENT |
|---------------|---|--|---------|
| L8507         | Voice Prosthesis, Patient Inserted                            | DME MAC  |         |
| L8509         | Voice Prosthesis, Inserted by a Licensed Health Care Provider | Part B MAC for dates of service on or after 10/01/2010.<br>DME MAC for dates of service prior to 10/01/2010                  |         |
| L8510         | Voice Prosthesis  | DME MAC  |         |
| L8511 - L8515 | Voice Prosthesis  | Part B MAC if used with tracheoesophageal voice prostheses inserted by a licensed health care provider.<br>If other, DME MAC |         |
| L8701-L8702   | Assist Device   | DME MAC  |         |
| L9900         | Miscellaneous Orthotic or Prosthetic Component or Accessory   | Part B MAC if used with implanted prosthetic device. If other, DME MAC.  |         |
| Q0144         | Azithromycin Dihydrate  | Part B MAC if incident to a physician's service. If other, DME MAC.  |         |
| Q0161 - Q0181 | Anti-emetic   | DME MAC  |         |
| Q0510 - Q0514 | Drug Dispensing Fees  | DME MAC  |         |
| Q2049-Q2050   | Doxorubicin   | Part B MAC if incident to a physician's service or used in an implanted infusion pump.<br>If other, DME MAC.                 |         |
| Q2052         | IVIG Demonstration  | DME MAC  |         |
| Q4074         | Inhalation Drug   | Part B MAC if incident to a physician's service. If other, DME MAC.  |         |



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| HCPCS         | DESCRIPTION                  | JURISDICTION   | COMMENT |
|---------------|------------------------------|--|---------|
| Q5101-Q5121   | Injection                    | Part B MAC if incident to a physician's service or used in an implanted infusion pump.<br>If other, DME MAC. |         |
| Q9991-Q9992   | Injection                    | Part B MAC if incident to a physician's service or used in an implanted infusion pump.<br>If other, DME MAC. |         |
| V2020 - V2025 | Frames                       | DME MAC  |         |
| V2100 - V2513 | Lenses                       | DME MAC  |         |
| V2520 - V2523 | Hydrophilic Contact Lenses   | Part B MAC if incident to a physician's service. If other, DME MAC.  |         |
| V2524- V2525  | Hydrophilic Contact Lenses   | DME MAC  |         |
| V2530 - V2531 | Contact Lenses, Scleral      | DME MAC  |         |
| V2599         | Contact Lens, Other Type     | Part B MAC if incident to a physician's service. If other, DME MAC.  |         |
| V2600 - V2615 | Low Vision Aids              | DME MAC  |         |
| V2623 - V2629 | Prosthetic Eyes              | DME MAC  |         |
| V2700 - V2780 | Miscellaneous Vision Service | DME MAC  |         |
| V2781         | Progressive Lens             | DME MAC  |         |
| V2782 - V2784 | Lenses                       | DME MAC  |         |
| V2786         | Lens                         | DME MAC  |         |
| V2797         | Vision Supply                | DME MAC  |         |

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| HCPCS | DESCRIPTION  | JURISDICTION   | COMMENT |
|-------|--|--|---------|
| V2799 | Miscellaneous Vision Service                                       | Part B MAC if supply for an implanted prosthetic device. If other, DME MAC |         |
| V5336 | Repair/Modification of Augmentative Communicative System or Device | DME MAC  |         |

# Travel Allowance Fees for Specimen Collection: 2023 Updates

Related CR Release Date: January 6, 2023

Effective Date: January 1, 2023

Implementation Date: January 23, 2023

MLN Matters Number: MM13071

Related Change Request (CR) Number: CR 13071 <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/r11778CP.pdf>

Related CR Transmittal Number: R11778CP

Related CR Title: Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule – Medicare Travel Allowance Fees for Collection of Specimens and New Updates for 2023

## Affected Providers

- Laboratories
- Laboratory technicians
- Other providers billing Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for specimen collection services for Medicare patients

## Action Needed

Make sure your billing staffs knows about:

- Specimen collection fees and travel allowances for 2023
- Other policy updates and reminders

## Background

Medicare Part B pays a specimen collection fee and travel allowance, when medically necessary, for a laboratory technician to draw a specimen from either a nursing home patient or homebound patient under Section 1833(h) (3) of the Social Security Act (the Act) [https://www.ssa.gov/OP\\_Home/ssact/title18/1833.htm](https://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title18/1833.htm). CMS bases payment for these services on the clinical laboratory fee schedule (CLFS).

## Specimen Collection Policy

We finalized an increase to the nominal fee for specimen collection based on the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U). For CY 2023, the general specimen collection fee will increase from \$3 to \$8.57 and as required by Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 (PAMA), we'll increase this by \$2.00 for those specimens you collect from a Medicare patient in a skilled nursing facility (SNF) or by a laboratory on behalf of a home health agency (HHA). This gives a \$10.57 specimen collection fee for those patients. We finalized a policy to update this fee amount annually by the percent change in the CPI-U.

Also, we're clarifying that to be eligible for a specimen collection fee, the specimen must be:

- Used to perform a Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory Test (CDLT) paid under the CLFS regulations at 42 CFR 414.523 <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-42/chapter-IV/subchapter-B/part-414/subpart-G/section-414.523>
- Collected by a trained technician from a Medicare patient who's homebound or is a non-hospital inpatient, but only when no qualified personnel are available at the facility to collect the specimen
- Collected as a blood specimen through venipuncture or a urine sample collected by catheterization

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A specimen collection fee isn't payable for any other specimen types, including blood samples where the cost of collecting the specimen is minimal (such as a throat culture or a routine capillary puncture for clotting or bleeding time). This fee won't be paid to anyone who didn't extract the specimen. We only allow 1 collection fee for each type of specimen for each patient encounter, regardless of the number of specimens drawn. If you draw different types or multiple specimens from 1 patient, only 1 specimen collection fee would be allowed. When a series of specimens is required to complete a single test (for example, glucose tolerance test), we treat the series as a single encounter.

The trained technician must personally draw the specimen. Medical necessity for such services exists where a trained technician draws a blood specimen from a homebound or an institutionalized patient. A patient doesn't need to be bedridden to be homebound.

The phrase "trained technician" refers to those staff providing specimen collection services. However, "trained technician" doesn't mandate certain educational requirements. For the purposes of the specimen collection provisions, the term includes a phlebotomist.

As a reminder, the HCPCS codes that describe specimen collection are:

- 36415 - Collection of venous blood by venipuncture
- G0471 - Collection of venous blood by venipuncture or urine sample by catheterization from an individual in a skilled nursing facility (SNF) or by a laboratory on behalf of a home health agency (HHA)
- P9612 - Catheterization for collection of specimen(s), (single patient), all places of services
- P9615 - Catheterization for collection of specimen(s), (multiple patients)

### **Travel Allowance Policy**

We pay a travel allowance when we pay a specimen collection fee. Travel for simple pickup of specimens or for specimen collection that doesn't require the services of trained technicians isn't considered in the calculation of the travel allowance. This means that the travel allowance amount may be paid only if a specimen collection fee is also payable. For example, we'd pay no travel allowance if a trained technician merely performs a messenger service to pick up a specimen drawn by other technicians.

Only Medicare patients (including Medicare Advantage) should be considered in the calculation and payment of the travel allowance. Don't include non-Medicare patients in the calculation of the travel allowance.

### **Travel Allowance Eligible Miles**

Eligible miles are those miles traveled that may be included in the calculation to decide the travel allowance amount. Eligible miles start at the laboratory or the starting point of the trained technician's travel for specimen collection and end at the laboratory or the ending point of the trained technician's travel for specimen collection.

Eligible miles don't include miles traveled for any purpose unrelated to specimen collection, such as collecting specimens from non-Medicare patients or for personal reasons.

As a reminder, effective January 1, 2022, we made permanent the option for laboratories to maintain electronic documentation of miles traveled for the purposes of covering the transportation and personnel expenses for trained technicians to travel to the location of an individual to collect a specimen sample. This option for laboratories to maintain electronic documentation applies to specimen collection for any CDLT. Laboratories

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need to be able to produce electronic documentation in a form and manner they can share with MACs and should continue to consult with their local MACs regarding the format and process for submission of this information if necessary.

### **Travel Allowance Mileage Rate**

The Act requires the travel allowance to cover both the “transportation” and “personnel expenses” for trained personnel to travel to the location of an individual to collect a sample. The travel allowance mileage rate shows both of these components.

The “transportation” component of the travel allowance mileage rate equals the IRS standard mileage rate. The IRS updates and issues standard mileage rates on a periodic basis.

The “personnel expenses” component of the travel allowance mileage rate is the trained technician’s personnel expenses based on a wages-per-mile amount.

Effective January 1, 2023, we use the latest wage data published in the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)-defined category of phlebotomist to establish the personnel expense component of the travel allowance mileage rate.

We calculate a per-mile amount to derive the approximate number of miles traveled by the trained technician each hour by using an average driving speed. The average miles-per-hour driving speed is multiplied by the trained technician’s estimated wages, as described above, and the result would be an amount that represents wages per mile, which are the personnel expenses associated with travel for specimen collection. We use an average driving speed of 40 miles per hour, as most of the travel related to specimen collection would be in local and residential areas.

### **Updates to the Travel Allowance Mileage Rate**

The travel allowance mileage rate for CY 2023 is \$1.11, based on:

- The IRS standard mileage rate, which is \$0.655, plus
- The most recent median BLS-published hourly wage for phlebotomists, which is \$17.97 divided by 40 to represent an average miles-per-hour driving speed, which is \$0.45

### **Travel Allowance Bases: Flat-Rate and Per-Mile**

We pay a travel allowance in 1 of 2 ways:

- Flat-rate travel allowance
- Per-mile travel allowance

### **Flat-Rate Travel Allowance**

The flat-rate travel allowance basis applies when the trained technician travels 20 eligible miles or less to and from 1 location for specimen collection from 1 or more Medicare patients.

Laboratories bill Medicare using HCPCS code P9604 to get the flat-rate travel allowance amount, prorated by the number of patients for whom we pay a specimen collection fee. The flat-rate trip basis travel allowance of \$11.10.

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## **Per-Mile Travel Allowance**

The per-mile travel allowance basis applies in 2 circumstances:

- When the round-trip travel to 1 location is greater than 20 eligible miles for specimen collection from 1 or more patients
- When travel is to more than 1 location, regardless of the number of miles traveled.

Laboratories bill Medicare using HCPCS code P9603 to get the per-mile travel allowance amount, prorated by the number of patients for whom we pay a specimen collection fee.

### **Calculation: Flat-rate Travel Allowance Basis**

For flat-rate travel allowance basis, the travel allowance amount calculation is the travel allowance mileage rate multiplied by 10 and divided by the number of patients for whom a specimen collection fee is paid.

Dividing by the number of patients makes sure that the flat-rate travel allowance amount is apportioned to each patient getting specimen collection services and that payment is calculated in an operationally feasible manner, as a laboratory must submit a claim for each patient to get the travel allowance. This allows for a fixed payment amount to be apportioned to the number of patients for whom a specimen collection fee is paid in a single location.

### **Calculation: Per-mile Travel Allowance Basis**

The calculation for the per-mile travel allowance amount is equal the number of eligible miles multiplied by the travel allowance mileage rate, divided by the number of patients for whom we paid a specimen collection fee.

To calculate the per-mile travel allowance amount, the laboratory would first calculate the total number of eligible miles that the trained technician traveled.

The eligible miles would be multiplied by the travel allowance mileage rate, then divided by the number of patients for whom a specimen collection fee is paid. This quotient yields a prorated travel allowance amount for each patient. The laboratory then submits a claim billing HCPCS code P9603 for payment of the per-mile travel allowance amount for each patient for whom a specimen collection fee is paid.

## **More Information**

Neither the annual deductible nor the 20% coinsurance for Medicare apply to the specimen collection or travel allowance amount for CDLTs.

Your MAC will adjust previously paid travel allowance claims with dates of service on or after January 1, 2023, in order to apply the updated payment rate. Your MAC will initiate those adjustments within 60 days, if claims are paid at the prior year's rates before their systems have the new rates.

We issued CR 13071 to your MAC as the official instruction for this change. CR 13071 has detailed examples that demonstrate each travel allowance method, especially when 2 or more patients get services on the same trip.

For more information, find your MACs' website. <https://www.cms.gov/MAC-info>

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## Document History

| Date of Change  | Description               |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| January 9, 2023 | Initial article released. |

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# National Coverage Determination 110.24: Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-cell Therapy

MLN Matters Number: MM12928 Revised

Related CR Release Date: December 30, 2022

Related CR Transmittal Number: R11774CP

Related Change Request (CR) Number: 12928

Effective Date: January 1, 2022

Implementation Date: January 31, 2023

Related CR Title: National Coverage Determination (NCD 110.24): Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T-cell Therapy

**What's Changed:** We revised the Article to clarify that providers shouldn't bill more than 1 unit per HCPCS code as we show in dark red on page 1.

## Provider Types Affected

This MLN Matters Article is for physicians, other providers, and suppliers billing Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for services they provide to Medicare patients.

## Provider Action Needed

Make sure your billing staff knows about these changes for CAR T-cell Therapy (CAR-T) billing:

- Include additional place of service (POS) codes for office and independent clinics
- Bill in 0.1-unit fractions
- **Don't bill more than 1 unit per HCPCS code**
- Use 3 modifiers, including new modifier -LU

## Background

The implementing CR 12177 <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/r10891cp.pdf> didn't allow for processing CAR-T claims in the Part B physician office and independent clinics. In that CR, CMS only allowed CAR-T claims in Part A inpatient and hospital-affiliated POS that were Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies (REMS)-approved. CR 12928 <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/r11774CP.pdf> allows POS codes 11 (Office) and 49 (Independent Clinic) on CAR-T claims as long as they are REMS-approved.

Additionally, we can't process CAR-T related HCPCS codes in the current Multi-Carrier System (MCS) system because the field length for the dollar amount in MCS is only 7 digits (line item or total maximum is 99999.99). CAR-T products need to bill as 1 unit with a dollar amount of 8 digits (999999.99). This isn't a problem when a single HCPCS code can be billed for multiple units or when a Part B provider is billing multiple HCPCS codes. The issue arises when, based on the code description, you bill CAR-T products as a single unit of 1 therapeutic dose. For example, Q2041 = 1 unit = \$448,316.40.

To bill CAR-T claims correctly in the Part B setting, divide the CAR-T HCPCS codes by 10 and bill in 0.1-unit fractions. Bill a total of 10 fractional units to reach the total Medicare allowed payment amount. Depending on the Medicare allowed payment for the CAR-T HCPCS code, some providers may submit 5 separate claims for 0.2 units on each claim.

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To attest that you're a REMS-approved facility, you must use 3 modifiers:

- Modifier -LU: Fractionalized payment CAR T-cell therapy
- Modifier -76: Repeat procedure or service by same physician or other qualified healthcare professional
- Modifier -KX: Requirements specified in the medical policy have been met

New HCPCS modifier -LU is in the January 2023 HCPCS Update and is effective retroactively for use on claims with dates of service on or after January 1, 2022. As we add more codes for current and future FDA-approved CAR T-cell therapies, we'll update CMS HCPCS accordingly

<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/HCPCSReleaseCodeSets/HCPCS-Quarterly-Update>.

Note: Part A Outpatient Prospective Payment System providers don't need to change their billing. They'll continue to bill 1 unit for the CAR T-cell products themselves.

The use of non-FDA-approved autologous T-cells with at least 1 CAR continues to be non-covered. Autologous treatment for cancer with T-cells expressing at least 1 CAR is also non-covered when the NCD criteria aren't met. We'll cover routine costs in clinical trials that use CAR T-cell therapy as an investigational agent that meet requirements in NCD 310.1 effective August 7, 2019,

<https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/ncd.aspx?NCDId=1&ncdver=2&fromdb=true>.

We remind you that the use of allogenic T-cells from healthy donors aren't autologous CAR T-cell treatments and you shouldn't bill those as autologous CAR-T treatments.

See the following websites for specific REMS facility information:

- Kymriah® <https://www.us.kymriah.com/treatment-center-locator/>
- Yescarta® <https://www.yescarta.com/find-a-treatment-center>
- Tecartus™ <https://www.tecartushcp.com/car-t-cell-therapy/mantle-cell-lymphoma/treatment-center-locator>
- Breyanzi® <https://www.celltherapy360.com/locations>
- ABECMA® <https://www.celltherapy360.com/locations>
- CARVYKTI™ <https://www.carvykti.hcp.com/treatment-centers>

For complete billing details, see the revised Chapter 32, Section 400.2 of the Medicare Claims Processing Manual <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/r11774CP.pdf#page=37>, which is part of CR 12928.

## More Information

We issued CR 12928 to your MAC as the official instruction for this change.

For more information, find your MAC's website. <https://www.cms.gov/MAC-info>

## Document History

| Date of Change   | Description   |
|------------------|---|
| January 5, 2023  | We revised the Article to clarify that providers shouldn't bill more than 1 unit per HCPCS code as we show in dark red on page 1. |
| December 1, 2022 | Initial article released.   |

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# Ambulatory Surgical Center Payment System: January 2023 Update

Related CR Release Date: **January 17, 2023**

Effective Date: January 1, 2023

Implementation Date: January 3, 2023

MLN Matters Number: MM13041 **Revised**

Related Change Request (CR) Number: CR 13041 <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/r11786cp.pdf>

Related CR Transmittal Number: **R11786CP**

Related CR Title: January 2023 Update of the Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) Payment System

**What's Changed:** A revision to CR 13041 added CPT codes 50970, 50972, 50974 to Table 2 and deleted CPT code Q4228 from Table 10. We made no substantial changes to the Article.

## Affected Providers

This MLN Matters Article is for:

- ASCs
- Other providers billing Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for services they provide to Medicare patients

## Action Needed

Make sure your billing staff knows about:

- New HCPCS C-codes on the ASC covered procedures list
- New HCPCS codes for drugs and biologics
- Skin substitute product assignments to high and low-cost groups

## Background

The changes for the January 2023 ASC Payment system are:

### 1. New Device Pass-Through Categories Effective January 1, 2023

Section 1833(t)(6)(B) of the Social Security Act (the Act)

[https://www.ssa.gov/OP\\_Home/ssact/title18/1833.htm](https://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title18/1833.htm) requires that, under the Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS), categories of devices be eligible for transitional pass-through payments for at least 2, but not more than 3 years. Also, Section 1833(t)(6)(B)(ii)(IV) of the Act requires CMS to create additional categories for transitional pass-through payment of new medical devices not described by existing or previously existing categories of devices.

For the January 2023 update, we approved 3 new devices for pass-through status under the OPPS and are establishing the new device categories in the ASC payment system. HCPCS codes C1747, C1826, and C1827 are effective January 1, 2023. Table 1 of CR 13041 <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/r11786cp.pdf#page=14> includes the HCPCS code, code descriptors, and ASC Payment Indicators (PI).

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Also, we're updating the device category long descriptor for device HCPCS code C1831, which was effective October 1, 2021, from "Personalized, anterior and lateral interbody cage (implantable)" to "Interbody cage, anterior, lateral or posterior, personalized (implantable)" effective January 1, 2023.

#### **a. New Device Offset from Payment for the Following HCPCS Codes Effective January 1, 2023**

Section 1833(t)(6)(D)(ii) of the Act requires that we deduct from OPPS pass-through payments for devices an amount that shows the device portion of the ambulatory payment classification (APC) payment amount. This deduction is known as the device offset, or the portion(s) of the APC amount that's associated with the cost of the pass-through device.

We've decided that offsets are associated with the costs of the new device categories described by the HCPCS codes in Table 2 of CR 13041 <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/r11786cp.pdf#page=14>. Always bill each device in these categories in the ASC setting with 1 of the associated CPT codes in Table 2. The associated devices, procedures, and offset percentages are in the January 2023 ASC code pair file <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/ambulatory-surgical-center-asc-payment/asc-code-pairs>.

#### **2. MiVu Mucosal Integrity Testing System: Clarification on the Reporting of HCPCS Code C9777**

In the CY 2022 OPSS/ASC final rule (86 FR 63517 and 63558)

<https://www.cms.gov/medicare/medicare-fee-service-payment/hospitaloutpatientpps/cms-1753-fc>, we stated that when you perform both a MiVu test and an esophagoscopy or esophagogastroduodenoscopy (EGD) test together, Hospital Outpatient Departments must report only HCPCS code C9777 and shouldn't report a separate HCPCS code for the esophagoscopy or EGD. The January 2023 OPSS update clarified this policy to show that a diagnostic esophagoscopy or EGD is included in HCPCS code C9777, and shouldn't be reported separately. This policy is in effect in ASCs starting January 1, 2023.

#### **3. New ASC Procedures effective January 1, 2023**

There are 26 new procedures that are separately payable in the ASC setting. The CPT codes, descriptors, and ASC PIs are in Table 3 of CR 13041 <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/r11786cp.pdf#page=17>. The ASC payment rates for the codes are in the January 2023 ASC Addenda AA and BB

[https://www.cms.gov/medicare/medicare-fee-for-service-payment/ascpayment/11\\_addenda\\_updates](https://www.cms.gov/medicare/medicare-fee-for-service-payment/ascpayment/11_addenda_updates).

#### **4. ASC Special Payment Policy for OPSS Complexity-Adjusted Comprehensive Ambulatory Payment Classifications (C-APCs)**

In the CY 2023 OPSS/ASC final rule, we finalized the ASC special payment policy for OPSS complexity adjusted C-APCs. We're making a complexity adjustment in the payment rate for primary surgical procedure and packaged add-on code combinations eligible for complexity adjustments under the OPSS and also performed in the ASC setting through the assignment of new HCPCS C-codes. Due to claims processing system limitations at this time, we're using the billing of these new C-codes, as a workaround, to provide a complexity adjustment to ASCs when performing these specific code pairs. Table 4 of CR 13041

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/r11786cp.pdf#page=21> shows the new HCPCS C-codes, descriptors, and ASC PIs. We added these new C-codes to the ASC covered procedures list.

Table 5 of CR 13041 <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/r11786cp.pdf#page=33> shows the specific HCPCS code combinations that correspond to the new C-codes. When you perform the assigned primary procedure and secondary add-on procedure HCPCS codes together during an encounter, you must now bill the new C-code to

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which these procedures are paired rather than the individual procedures HCPCS codes. (Of note, ASCs already don't bill packaged codes; ASC PI=N1).

We put more information related to these code pairs, including descriptors and PIs, in a supplemental crosswalk table <https://www.cms.gov/license/ama?file=/files/zip/cy-2023-final-asc-code-pair-crosswalk-table.zip> to the CY 2023 OPPTS/ASC final rule.

## **5. Drugs, Biologicals, and Radiopharmaceuticals**

### **a. Newly Established HCPCS Codes for Drugs and Biologicals as of January 1, 2023**

We're establishing 15 new drug and biological HCPCS codes on January 1, 2023. These HCPCS codes as well as the descriptors and ASC PIs are in Table 6 of CR 13041

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/r11786cp.pdf#page=36>.

### **b. HCPCS Codes for Drugs Deleted on December 31, 2022**

We're deleting 2 separately payable drug HCPCS codes won December 31, 2022. These HCPCS codes are: C9142 and J9044. Long descriptor and ASC PI are in Table 7 of CR 13041

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/r11786cp.pdf#page=37>.

### **c. HCPCS Code Q5124 Separately Payable Effective October 1, 2022**

We identified an error with the October 2022 ASC drug file resulting in the HCPCS code Q5124 (Injection, ranibizumab-nuna, biosimilar, (byooviz), 0.1 mg) assigned an ASC PI=K5 (Items, codes, and services for which pricing information and claims data isn't available. No payment made.). The correct ASC PI for this code was K2 (Drugs and biologicals paid separately when provided integral to a surgical procedure on ASC list; payment based on OPPTS rate.) effective October 1, 2022. We're reissuing the October 2022 ASC drug file with HCPCS code Q5124 assigned ASC PI=K2.

This correction is retroactively effective to October 1, 2022. If you performed this service with dates of service starting October 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022, and we denied your claim as not payable you may request reprocessing of this code from your Part B MAC. Table 8 of CR 13041

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/r11786cp.pdf#page=37> lists the HCPCS code, descriptors, ASC PI, and effective date.

### **d. Drugs and Biologicals with Payments Based on Average Sales Price (ASP)**

For CY 2023, we continue making payment for nonpass-through drugs and biologicals at a single rate of Average Sales Price (ASP) + 6%. This provides payment for both the acquisition cost and pharmacy overhead costs associated with the drug or biological. We'll update payments for drugs and biologicals based on ASPs on a quarterly basis as later quarter ASP submissions become available. Updated payment rates effective January 1, 2023, are in the January 2023 update of ASC Addendum BB.

### **e. Drugs and Biologicals Based on ASP Methodology with Restated Payment Rates**

Some drugs and biologicals with payment rates based on ASP methods may have their payment rates corrected retroactively. These retroactive corrections typically occur on a quarterly basis. The list of drugs and biologicals with corrected payment rates will be accessible on the first date of the quarter at Restated Drug and Biological

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Payment Rates <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/ASCPayment/ASC-Restated-Payment-Rates>.

If you think you may have gotten an incorrect payment for drugs and biologicals impacted by these corrections you may request your MAC to adjust the previously processed claims.

#### **f. New Modifier “JZ” Available for Use as of January 1, 2023**

Starting January 1, 2023, modifier JZ will be available for voluntary provider use when no amount of drug is discarded from a single dose or single use packaging. ASCs must report the JZ modifier for all applicable drugs with no discarded drug amounts starting no later than July 1, 2023. Table 9 of CR 13041

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/r11786cp.pdf#page=37> displays the modifier and descriptors.

### **6. Skin Substitutes**

The payment for skin substitute products that don’t qualify for hospital OPPS pass-through status are packaged into the OPPS payment for the associated skin substitute application procedure. This policy also applies to the ASC payment system. We show the skin substitute products in 2 groups:

- High-cost skin substitute products - only use these in combination with the performance of 1 of the skin application procedures described by CPT codes 15271-15278.
- Low-cost skin substitute products for packaging purposes - only use these in combination with the performance of 1 of the skin application procedures described by HCPCS code C5271-C5278.

We assign new skin substitute HCPCS codes into the low-cost skin substitute group unless we have OPPS pricing data showing the cost of the product is above either the mean unit cost of \$47 or the per day cost of \$837 for CY 2023.

#### **a. New Skin Substitute Products as of January 1, 2023**

There are 4 new skin substitute HCPCS codes active as of January 1, 2023. These are HCPCS codes Q4236, Q4262, Q4263, and Q4264. The codes are packaged and are assigned to the low-cost skin substitute group. These new packaged codes are in Table 10 of CR 13041 <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/r11786cp.pdf#page=37>.

Note that ASCs shouldn’t separately bill for packaged skin substitutes (ASC PI=N1) since packaged codes aren’t reportable under the ASC payment system.

#### **b. Deletion of HCPCS Code C1849 (Skin substitute, synthetic, resorbable, per square centimeter) Effective December 31, 2022**

HCPCS code C1849 (Skin substitute, synthetic, resorbable, per square centimeter) has been deleted as of December 31, 2022. HCPCS code C1849 is in Table 10 of CR 13041.

#### **c. Skin Substitute Assignments to High Cost and Low Costs Groups for CY 2023**

Table 10 also lists the skin substitute products and their assignment as either a high-cost or a low-cost skin substitute product, when applicable.

### **7. HCPCS Codes with ASC PI Changes from Non-Payable to Payable in CY2023**

The 18 HCPCS codes in Table 11 of CR 13041 <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/r11786cp.pdf#page=41>

Continued >>

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have non-payable ASC PIs in CY2022 and are moving to payable effective January 1, 2023. These codes aren't in other tables of CR 13041.

## 8. Coverage Determinations

The fact that a drug, device, procedure or service is assigned a HCPCS code and a payment rate under the ASC payment system doesn't imply coverage by the Medicare Program, but shows only how the product, procedure, or service may be paid if covered by the program. MACs decide if a drug, device, procedure, or other service meets all program requirements for coverage. For example, MACs decide that it's reasonable and necessary to treat the patient's condition and if it's excluded from payment.

## More Information

We issued CR 13041 to your MAC as the official instruction for this change.

For more information, find your MACs' website. <https://www.cms.gov/MAC-info>

## Document History

| Date of Change    | Description  |
|-------------------|--|
| January 17, 2023  | A revision to CR 13041 added CPT codes 50970, 50972, 50974 to Table 2 and deleted CPT code Q4228 from Table 10. We made no substantial changes to the Article. |
| December 22, 2022 | Initial article released.  |

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# Colorectal Cancer Screening Tests: Changes to Coinsurance for Related Procedures

MLN Matters Number: MM12656 Revised

Related CR Release Date: December 29, 2022

Related CR Transmittal Number: R11772OTN

Related Change Request (CR) Number: 12656

Effective Date: January 1, 2022

Implementation Date: January 1, 2023

Related CR Title: Changes to Beneficiary Coinsurance for Additional Procedures Furnished During the Same Clinical Encounter as Certain Colorectal Cancer Screening Tests

Note: We revised this Article due to a revised CR 12656. The CR changes didn't affect the contents of the Article. We did change the CR release date, transmittal number and the CR web address. All other information remains the same.

## Provider Types Affected

This MLN Matters Article is for physicians, hospitals, and other providers billing Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for colorectal screening tests they do for Medicare patients.

## Provider Action Needed

Make sure your billing staff knows about:

- Phasing out coinsurance for certain colorectal cancer screening procedures that become a diagnostic or therapeutic service

## Background

Section 122 of Division CC of the Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA) of 2021

<https://www.congress.gov/116/plaws/publ260/PLAW-116publ260.pdf#page=1776>, Waiving Medicare Coinsurance for Certain Colorectal Cancer Screening Tests, amends Section 1833(a) of the Act to offer a special coinsurance rule for screening flexible sigmoidoscopies and colonoscopies. The reduced coinsurance is being phased-in starting January 1, 2022.

Currently, planned colorectal cancer screening tests are free. However, if you add a procedure in the same clinical encounter as a result of the colorectal cancer screening, the patient pays a coinsurance.

Starting January 1, 2023, CMS will gradually reduce coinsurance for procedures performed:

- In connection with a colorectal cancer screening test
- As a result of a screening test
- In the same clinical encounter as the screening test

When a screening colorectal cancer procedure, G0104, G0105, or G0121 has the PT modifier submitted on the claim line item with HCPCS codes 10000 – 69999, G0500, 00811, or CPT code 99153 for diagnostic colonoscopy, or diagnostic flexible sigmoidoscopy, or other procedure to indicate that a screening colorectal

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cancer procedure, HCPCS G0104, G0105, or G0121, has become a diagnostic or therapeutic service, coinsurance is reduced or waived.

The reduced coinsurance applies regardless of the code you bill.

For dates of service in CYs:

- 2023–2026, coinsurance is 15%
- 2027–2029, coinsurance is 10%
- Starting 2030, no coinsurance

### More Information

We issued CR 12656 to your MAC as the official instruction for this change.

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/r11772OTN.pdf>

For more information, find your MAC's website. <https://www.cms.gov/MAC-info>

### Document History

| Date of Change     | Description  |
|--------------------|--|
| December 30, 2022  | We revised this Article due to a revised CR 12656. The CR changes didn't affect the contents of the Article. We did change the CR release date, transmittal number and the CR web address. All other information remains the same. |
| September 29, 2022 | We revised this Article due to a revised CR 12656. The CR changes didn't affect the contents of the Article. We did change the CR release date, transmittal number and the CR web address. All other information remains the same. |
| April 29, 2022     | Initial article released.  |

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## MLN Connects™

MLN Connects contains a week's worth of Medicare-related messages instead of many different messages being sent to you throughout the week. This notification process ensures planned, coordinated messages are delivered timely about Medicare-related topics.

MLN Connects™ for December 22, 2022

<https://www.cms.gov/outreach-and-education/outreachffsprovpartprogprovider-partnership-email-archive/2022-12-22-mlnc>

MLN Connects™ for January 5, 2022

<https://www.cms.gov/outreach-and-education/outreachffsprovpartprogprovider-partnership-email-archive/2023-01-05-mlnc>

MLN Connects™ for January 12, 2022

<https://www.cms.gov/outreach-and-education/outreachffsprovpartprogprovider-partnership-email-archive/2023-01-12-mlnc>

MLN Connects™ for January 19, 2022

<https://www.cms.gov/outreach-and-education/outreachffsprovpartprogprovider-partnership-email-archive/2023-01-19-mlnc>

MLN Connects™ for January 26, 2022

<https://www.cms.gov/outreach-and-education/outreachffsprovpartprogprovider-partnership-email-archive/2023-01-26-mlnc>



## Medicare Learning Network® (MLN)

Want to stay informed about the latest changes to the Medicare Program? Get connected with the Medicare Learning Network® (MLN) – the home for education, information, and resources for health care professionals.

The Medicare Learning Network® is a registered trademark of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the brand name for official CMS education and information for health care professionals. It provides educational products on

Medicare-related topics, such as provider enrollment, preventive services, claims processing, provider compliance, and Medicare payment policies. MLN products are offered in a variety of formats, including articles, educational tools, booklets, fact sheets, web-based training courses (many of which offer continuing education credits) – all available to you free of charge!

You can find links to the following resources on the CMS MLN web page at:

<https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNGenInfo>

- Publications & Multimedia
- Events & Training
- News & Updates
- Association Continuing Education Credit

### MLN Connects Electronic Mailing List

Subscribe to the MLN Connects weekly email newsletter for all national Fee-for-Service (FFS) program news, including MLN Matters Article and MLN product updates.

To subscribe to the service:

1. Go to [https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USCMS/subscriber/new?pop=t&topic\\_id=USCMS\\_7819](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USCMS/subscriber/new?pop=t&topic_id=USCMS_7819). Enter you email address and select Submit.
2. Follow the instructions to set up an account and start receiving updates immediately – it's that easy!

If you would like to contact the MLN, please email CMS at [MLN@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:MLN@cms.hhs.gov).

## CMS Provider Minute Videos

The Medicare Learning Network has a series of CMS Provider Minute Videos

(<https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/MLN-Multimedia>) on a variety of topics, such as psychiatry, preventive services, lumbar spinal fusion, and much more. The videos offer tips and guidelines to help you properly submit claims and maintain sufficient supporting documentation. Check the site often as CMS adds new videos periodically to further help you navigate the Medicare program.

# Get Your Railroad Medicare News Electronically

Register now to receive customized daily or weekly emails on the latest Medicare news and Palmetto GBA features.

## How to register to receive Palmetto GBA Railroad Medicare email updates:

Subscribing to our email updates is quick, easy and free! Go to <https://tinyurl.com/RailroadMedicareEmailUpdates>. Enter your email address and select the topics you are interested in receiving updates about. Complete the CAPTCHA equation and submit.

**Note:** After you click “Submit”, a confirmation email will be sent to your email address. Please use the link provided in the email to confirm your registration.

## PTAN Lookup and Request Tool

Want to verify if you have a Railroad Medicare Provider Transaction Access Number (PTAN)? Need to request a Railroad Medicare PTAN for new provider? You can do both through our “PTAN Lookup and Request Tool” at <https://www.PalmettoGBA.com/RR/PTAN>. This tool first validates the provider identification information you enter — local Part B MAC PTAN, National Provider Identifier (NPI) and Tax Identification Number (TIN) — against enrollment information in our files. If a match is found, the tool retrieves and releases the Railroad Medicare PTAN. If a match is not found, the tool gives providers the option to request a new Railroad Medicare PTAN.

Please review the following resources before using the PTAN Tool:

- Using Railroad Medicare’s online “PTAN Lookup and Request Tool”  
<https://www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/rr.nsf/DID/AK7K447304>
- Railroad Medicare PTAN Lookup and Request Tool FAQs  
<https://www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/rr.nsf/DID/KB6799Q6E8>

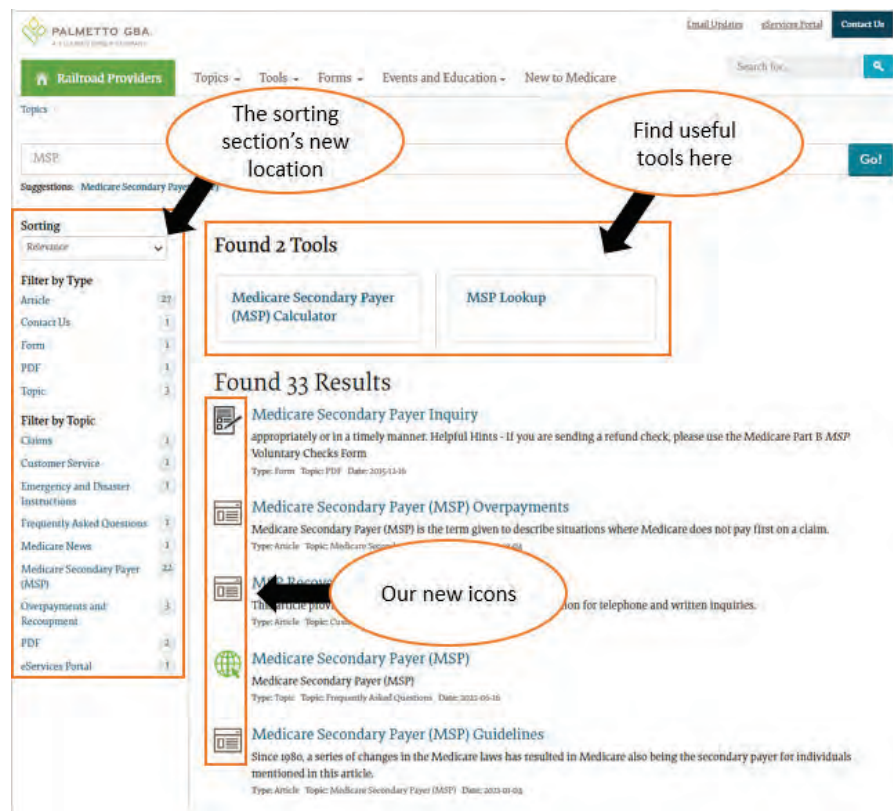
# We Made Exciting Changes to Your Search Experience

Palmetto GBA is pleased to announce improvements to our website's search engine. While the function and location of our search tool will remain the same, we have added features to make the search experience more intuitive. These include:

- Our sorting section is migrating from the right-hand to the left-hand side of the screen. The section itself is also revamped to make it easier to locate the information you need.
- We have created new, user-friendly icons to help you quickly navigate search results
- Useful results and tools are now shown at the top of the page, making locating these features less of a hassle

These enhancements were made with you in mind. Palmetto GBA strives to improve the customer experience based on the feedback we receive from our providers.

Our new look is below:



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# Keep Your Railroad Medicare Enrollment Record Up to Date

As a Medicare provider, you are responsible for notifying Medicare of changes to the information in your Medicare enrollment record, including provider name and address changes. Incorrect information in your enrollment file could lead to claim rejections or correspondence being delivered to an incorrect address.

Railroad Medicare does not automatically receive updates you make to your enrollment record with your Part B Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC). Please notify Railroad Medicare promptly of any enrollment changes once those changes have been made by your Part B MAC.

Types of Enrollment Changes to Report to Railroad Medicare include:

- Provider name changes
- Practice name changes
- Billing address changes
- Practice address changes
- Practice location added (only if the additional practice location is in a different contractor locality, or you have been assigned a new NPI for the location)
- Provider has retired
- Provider has left group

Railroad Medicare cannot accept enrollment changes by telephone. You can find instructions for faxing or mailing enrollment changes to Railroad Medicare on our Provider Enrollment Update an Enrollment Record webpage at <https://www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/rr.nsf/DID/H4AZXTC6NU>.

## Using ePass in the Railroad Medicare Interactive Voice Response (IVR) Unit

Provider authentication by Provider Transaction Access Number (PTAN), National Provider Identifier (NPI) and Tax Identification Number (TIN) is required before the Palmetto GBA Interactive Voice Response (IVR) Unit is authorized to release Railroad Medicare claim status information, financial information, patient eligibility information, or to order a copy of a remittance advice.

An “ePass” is an eight-digit code you will be prompted to receive or enter each time you choose the IVR options for claims, finance, eligibility or duplicate remittance advice. When you choose option 2 to receive an ePass, you will be assigned an ePass code for the provider’s PTAN/NPI/TIN combination you enter. You can then enter that ePass in the IVR for the remainder of the day in order to authenticate that provider. This eliminates the need to repeatedly enter the same PTAN, NPI and TIN into the IVR.

The goal of the ePass is to ease provider burden by eliminating the need to repeatedly authenticate the same provider each time you contact the IVR in a given day.

We hope this service will be effective and helpful to you.

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# Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Enrollment: Help

## Completing Online Forms

Did you know Palmetto GBA offers online enrollment to our Electronic Data Interchange (EDI)? The EDI Online Enrollment Tool allows you to submit the EDI enrollment forms electronically online. Once the forms have been completed, you will receive a tracking number. This tracking number can be used to check the status of your request using our EDI Request for Enrollment Status Tool. Please allow 15 days for processing before checking status.






Our new EDI Enrollment: Finding Forms Online interactive tool provides a quick shortcut to all of the forms you need for enrollment. To get started on the tool, choose the Railroad Medicare tab. Then choose from the list of actions. Click on the yellow arrow icon to see a list of the answers you will need to select on the EDI Online Enrollment Tool for the action selected.

The screenshot shows the 'EDI Enrollment: Finding Forms Online' interface. At the top, there are three tabs: 'Jurisdiction J' (green), 'Jurisdiction M' (green), and 'Railroad Medicare' (brown). The 'Railroad Medicare' tab is selected. Below the tabs, there is a list of actions on the left, each with a yellow arrow icon to its right. The actions are: 'Submit EDI Agreement to Use eServices Only', 'New EDI Provider Using a Clearinghouse or Billing Service to Submit Claims Only', 'New EDI Provider Using a Clearinghouse or Billing Service to Submit Claims & Receive Electronic Remittances', 'New EDI Provider Using a Clearinghouse or Billing Service to Receive Electronic Remittances Only', 'New EDI Provider - Requesting a Submitter ID (Direct Submitter)', 'New EDI Provider - Requesting a Receiver ID (Direct Submitter)', and 'New EDI Provider - Requesting a Submitter ID (Direct Submitter) & Receiver ID'. On the right side, there is a section titled 'Finding Forms' with the text: 'Finding the appropriate EDI enrollment form has never been easier. Just use the scroll bar to scan and select the appropriate form!'. Below this text is a scroll bar with a circular logo that says 'RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD U.S.A.'. At the bottom right, there is a button labeled 'Return to Introduction' with a green circular arrow icon.

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| Jurisdiction J   | Jurisdiction M  | Railroad Medicare   |
|--|---|---|
| Submit EDI Agreement to Use eServices Only   |  | <b>Finding Forms</b><br>Finding the appropriate EDI enrollment form has never been easier. Just use the scroll bar to scan and select the appropriate form! |
| New EDI Provider Using a Clearinghouse or Billing Service to Submit Claims Only  |  |   |
| <b>New EDI Provider Using a Clearinghouse or Billing Service to Submit Claims &amp; Receive Electronic Remittances</b><br>1. For <i>Customer Type</i> , select <b>New</b> (valid PTAN for line of business and new to EDI)<br>2. For <i>Action Type</i> , select <b>Add Provider</b><br>3. For <i>Choose Your Option</i> , select <b>Using Clearinghouse or Billing Service</b><br>4. For <i>What transaction(s) do you want the EDI Submitter to perform?</i> , select <b>Submit Claims, Receive Electronic Remittances</b><br>5. Select the <b>Next</b> button |   |   |
| New EDI Provider – Requesting a Receiver ID (Direct Submitter)   |  | <b>Return to Introduction</b>    |
| New EDI Provider – Requesting a Submitter ID (Direct Submitter) & Receiver ID  |  |   |

If you need additional assistance completing EDI enrollment, Palmetto GBA has dedicated representatives available to provide technical assistance and answer questions about EDI. Our Provider Contact Center (PCC) representatives can be reached at 888-355-9165 (Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET for all time zones with the exception of PT, which receives services from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.).

To connect with an EDI representative, select option 2 from the main menu for EDI/eServices. Then select option 0 for technical assistance with electronic billing, electronic remittance advice (ERA) and other EDI issues.

EDI representatives are also available to chat when the green “Chat Now” icon is visible in the lower right corner of an EDI resource webpage.

EDI Online Enrollment Tool -

<https://www.palmettogba.com/internet/PCIDN.nsf/R?OpenAgent&DID=BXEPDW14&url=yes>

EDI Enrollment: Finding Forms Online Tool –

<https://www.palmettogba.com/internet/PCIDN.nsf/R?OpenAgent&DID=C7QGRA26&url=yes>

EDI Request for Enrollment Status Tool –

<https://www.palmettogba.com/internet/PCIDN.nsf/R?OpenAgent&DID=BBJQE954&url=yes&v3=yes>

# Online Options for Researching, Refunding and Requesting Offsets of Overpayments

Need information about an overpayment? Looking for an alternative to sending an overpayment refund by check? Use our eServices Financial Tools!

Our Overpayment Data function allows you to check for overpayment balances, adjustment details, collections, and recoupments online. To show you how beneficial this tool is, we are providing you with a short video walkthrough of the benefits and features of our Overpayment Data function. We hope you enjoy this visual and see how a small part of eServices can be of great service to you. You can find the video demo here:

<https://palmettogba.com/palmetto/rr.nsf/DID/7GZUWJTJTI>.

In addition to researching your overpayments online, you can use the following eServices Financial Forms:

- Use the eServices eCheck function to send payments electronically via ACH to Palmetto GBA
- Use the eOffset function to request an immediate offset when you receive a demanded overpayment or make a permanent request for all future demanded overpayments

You can find details about using these helpful Financial Tools in the eServices User Manual at

<http://www.palmettogba.com/eservicesuserguide>.

## eDelivery Reminder: Are You Getting Your Greenmail?

Palmetto GBA would like to remind providers that you have the option to receive letters electronically through eServices. Gaining access to these letters is a simple process! To start receiving your Medicare letters, such as Medical Review Additional Documentation Request (ADR) letters and first level appeal Medicare Redetermination Notices (MRNs) electronically, you must be signed up for our eServices online provider portal. Once you have signed into eServices, select the Admin tab, next you can choose your eDelivery preferences. Just click the drop down box to choose eDelivery of the letters you would like to receive via greenmail. You can also select “User Email Notification” to start receiving emails when your letters are available in eServices for you. Selecting this choice is so easy and allows you to receive your letters faster!

With the resumption of Targeted Probe and Educate (TPE) reviews on September 1, 2021, providers with an active eServices account will automatically receive their TPE notification letters, TPE ADR letters and TPE review results letters via eDelivery.

Once you have chosen the eDelivery option, all of the letters you selected will come to you electronically, even if you sent in your request via fax or mail.

# Do You Have a Question Regarding eServices? We Can Help!

**Palmetto GBA has dedicated representatives available to provide technical assistance and answer questions about our secure online portal — eServices.** *Our Provider Contact Center (PCC) representatives* can be reached at 888-355-9165 (Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET for all time zones with the exception of PT, which receives services from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.).

To connect with an eServices representative:

- Press 2 for EDI/eServices, then
- Press 1 for eServices inquiries

# Tell Us What You Think of Our Service

If your experience with Railroad Medicare was awesome or not, we'd like to hear from you! Telling us what we do well lets us know what we should keep doing, and telling us how we can improve gives us room to grow. Just visit our website and take our Palmetto GBA/Railroad Medicare Provider Experience survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JPYHTDN>. Here you can provide feedback on your most recent interaction with Railroad Medicare that occurred via telephone, chat, email, mail or social media (Facebook, Twitter or LinkedIn). We value your comments and opinions, and we look forward to a culture of continuous improvement in the way we conduct business and serve our customers.

Our survey has eight easy questions and takes about three minutes to complete (if that). Those three minutes can help us coach a Palmetto GBA team member to give a customer an awesome experience every time they contact Railroad Medicare.

We thank you in advance for your participation!



The image shows a screenshot of a web-based survey titled "Palmetto GBA Provider Experience Survey". At the top, there is a logo for Palmetto GBA with the tagline "A Better Health Care Experience". Below the logo, a green banner contains the survey title. The survey begins with a "Welcome!" message, followed by a paragraph explaining the purpose of the survey: "We're committed to providing you the highest level of customer service and desired experience. Your feedback helps us continue to improve the Provider Experience we deliver to you and across our Provider Community. When contact information is provided, we respond directly to your issues, concerns or comments." It also states, "This short survey can be completed in 5 minutes – Thank you for taking this survey!".

Question 1: "Please tell us your Provider type:". It includes five radio button options: "Clinical / Group Practice", "Non-Physician Practitioner", "Home Health", "Physician", "Institutional Provider", and "Hospice". There is also an "Other (please specify)" option with a text input field below it.

Question 2: "What Palmetto GBA Contract are you under?". It includes three radio button options: "Jurisdiction J (Alabama, Georgia or Tennessee)", "Jurisdiction M (North Carolina, South Carolina Virginia, West Virginia or the 16 Home Health and Hospice states)", and "RRB Specialty MAC (Railroad Medicare)". The "RRB Specialty MAC (Railroad Medicare)" option is selected with a checkmark.

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# Railroad Medicare Customer Information and Outreach

## Important Telephone Numbers

Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System  
877-288-7600

Provider Contact Center  
888-355-9165

Telephone Reopenings  
888-355-9165

Electronic Data Interchange (EDI)  
Technical Support  
888-355-9165

Provider Enrollment  
888-355-9165

Palmetto GBA  
Railroad Medicare  
P.O. Box 10066  
Augusta, GA 30999-0001

[www.PalmettoGBA.com/RR](http://www.PalmettoGBA.com/RR)

Beneficiary Contact Center  
800-833-4455  
TTY 877-566-3572