

**TO: ALL PROVIDERS**

**FROM: CAREFIRST OF MARYLAND INC., MEDICARE PART A**

**DATE: AUGUST 12, 2004**

**SUBJECT: BILLING FOR INFUSION THERAPY SERVICES USING HCPCS Q0081-Q0085**

The purpose of this bulletin is to clarify the HCPCS codes used for infusion therapy services. Drug administration codes Q0081, Q0083, Q0084 & Q0085 are defined on a per visit basis. CareFirst of MD Inc., Medicare Part A Fiscal Intermediary has recently completed data analysis of the use of HCPCS Q0081-Q0085. Coding irregularities were identified with multiple providers resulting in inappropriate reimbursement. Two units of the same code can be billed on the same date, only if two distinct and separate visits to the hospital occur on the same date. The billing of excessive units of HCPCS Q0081-Q0085 results in inappropriate payment to the provider and in increased coinsurance due from the beneficiary. **It is imperative that providers take immediate action to correct this billing practice.**

The complete description for each HCPCS code is as follows:

- Q0081 Infusion therapy, using other than chemotherapeutic drugs, per visit. Use this code when infusing intravenous therapy for hydration, or the intravenous administration of antibiotics, anti-emetics, or analgesics.
- Q0083 Chemotherapy administration by other than infusion technique only (e.g., subcutaneous, intramuscular, push), per visit. This code is used for subcutaneous injections, intramuscular injection or IV push medications.
- Q0084 Chemotherapy administration by infusion technique only, per visit.
- Q0085 Chemotherapy administration by both infusion technique and other technique(s) (e.g., subcutaneous, intramuscular, push), per visit. HCPCS Q0085 is no longer payable under the Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) beginning January 1, 2004.

For OPPS providers, hospitals must report both HCPCS Q0083 and HCPCS Q0084 when chemotherapy is administered by both infusion and another route of administration. Claims on which HCPCS Q0085 is billed will be returned to the provider for correction.

For non-OPPS providers, HCPCS Q0085 remains a billable code.

Attention is called to the last phrase in each code; **“per visit”**. Each code describes an episode of care, not hours of infusion, number of medications administered, etc. Correct reporting for each of these codes should indicate Service Units of one (1) for any one date of service.

If the patient receives medication at more than one separate encounter on a single date of service, the medical record should clearly document that the patient was absent from the facility between the administrations. Effectively, there would be two episodes of care.

For example: A patient is receiving intravenous antibiotics twice daily. The patient presents in the morning, receives the antibiotic and departs the premises. Later in the same day (usually late afternoon or evening) the patient returns for a second antibiotic administration. If the antibiotic is administered by infusion, the correct submission for this date of service would be as follows.

Line 1:  
Q0081, quantity 01

Line 2:  
Q0081, quantity 01, Modifier 59

A single line submission to report this date of service is not appropriate. The submission should not report:

Line 1:  
Q0081, quantity 02, no Modifier

The injection codes HCPCS 90782, 90783, 90784, 90788 are considered separate services from infusion therapy and are separately billable to Medicare. It is important to read the descriptor for each code in order to insure that the proper code has been billed. It is appropriate to bill IV infusion therapy, injection, drugs, and supplies separately. Drugs with a CPT/HCPCS code should be billed under revenue code 636.

Any questions should be addressed to your Provider Representative at 1-866-488-0545. Medical Review will closely monitor submission of these codes for correct format.

**THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE SHARED WITH ALL HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS AND MANAGERIAL MEMBERS OF THE PROVIDER/SUPPLIER STAFF. BULLETINS ISSUED AFTER OCTOBER 1, 1999 ARE AVAILABLE AT NO-COST FROM OUR WEBSITE AT [www.marylandmedicare.com](http://www.marylandmedicare.com)**