

DATE: September 22, 2005

TO: All Providers Billing for End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Patients

FROM: Carefirst, Medicare Part A

SUBJECT: Holding Claims with Diagnosis Code 585.6 for End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD)

The annual ICD-9-CM coding update, effective October 1, 2005, expanded the diagnosis code of 585 for chronic kidney disease to include a fourth digit to allow for a higher degree of specificity in reporting the stage of kidney disease. The new ICD-9-CM code for ESRD for claims with dates of service on or after October 1, 2005 is 585.6.

The change in the requirement for reporting the new code 585.6 for a diagnosis of ESRD for renal dialysis centers billing for dialysis and hospitals billing with Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Q4054 Darbepoetin Alfa for an ESRD patient and HCPCS Q4055 Epoetin Alfa for an ESRD patient requires shared systems changes. The necessary system changes are expected to be made in late October 2005.

To prevent claims with dates of service on or after October 1, 2005, from inappropriately being denied or returned to the provider, contractors shall hold the claims until the system changes are implemented.

We will be holding claims that meet the following criteria until the system changes are implemented:

- Type of bill 72x with dates of service on or after October 1, 2005, and diagnosis code 585.6 is present;
- Types of bill 13x and 85x with dates of service on or after October 1, 2005, containing HCPCS Q4054 and / or Q4055 and diagnosis code 585.6 is present.

SOURCE: JSM-05516

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