Summary

This policy addresses reimbursement for high and low osmolar contrast and radiopharmaceutical materials submitted with HCPCS (Healthcare Common Procedural Coding System) codes A4641, A4642, A9500-A9700, J1245, Q3001, Q9951, Q9953, Q9954, and Q9956-Q9969 on the CMS-1500 form or its electronic equivalent.

Policy Statement

When an imaging or therapeutic nuclear medicine procedure is performed in a non-facility setting, Medica will provide separate reimbursement to the same physician or other health care professional for high osmolar contrast materials (HOCM), low osmolar contrast materials (LOCM) or radiopharmaceutical materials when reported on the same date of service with a procedure code that requires contrast or radiopharmaceutical materials. These procedure codes are identified on the Imaging and Therapeutic Procedures Requiring Contrast Code List, and the Nuclear Medicine Procedures Requiring Contrast Code List.

Medica does not provide reimbursement for HOCM, LOCM, or radiopharmaceutical materials when billed by a provider in a facility place of service (CMS Place of Service [POS] codes 19, 21, 22, 23, 26, 34, 51, 52, 56, 61). These materials are required to perform certain imaging and therapeutic nuclear medicine procedures and are part of the technical component, which is reimbursable to the facility.

When an imaging or therapeutic nuclear medicine procedure is performed in an ambulatory surgery center setting (POS 24), Medica will provide separate reimbursement to the same physician or other health care professional for HOCM, LOCM, or radiopharmaceutical materials when reported on the same date of service with a procedure code that requires contrast or radiopharmaceutical materials. See code lists specific to POS 24 below.

Additionally, Medica will not provide separate reimbursement in any setting for radiopharmaceutical material code A9512 when submitted with A9538 or A9560 on the same day by the same physician or other health care professional.

Definitions

**Osmolar Contrast Material** – An iodine-based substance used in radiography to increase the visibility of an image.

**Radiopharmaceutical Material** – A radioactive pharmaceutical, nuclide, or other chemical used for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes.
Same Physician or Other Health Care Professional – All physicians and/or other qualified health care professionals of the same group providing health care services and reporting the same federal tax identification number.

Contrast and Radiopharmaceutical Materials Code List

Imaging and Therapeutic Procedures Requiring Contrast Code List

Nuclear Medicine Procedures Requiring Contrast Code List

Contrast and Radiopharmaceutical Materials in POS 24 Code List

Imaging and Therapeutic Procedures Requiring Contrast in POS 24 Code List

Nuclear Medicine Procedures Requiring Contrast in POS 24 Code List

Resources

- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
- Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS)

Effective Date

11/14/2010

Revision Updates

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