



State of New Jersey
Department of Human Services
Division of Medical Assistance & Health Services

NEWSLETTER

Volume 9 No. 24

April 1999

TO: Physicians
Certified Nurse Practitioners/Clinical Nurse Specialists
Independent Clinics, and
Independent Clinical Laboratories
Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) for information only

SUBJECT: Billing for Immunotherapy Services

EFFECTIVE: May 1, 1999

PURPOSE: To notify providers of the change in billing instructions for certain allergen immunotherapy procedures.

BACKGROUND: Currently, the New Jersey Medicaid and NJ KidCare fee-for-service programs reimburse providers who only prepare the antigen extracts for allergen immunotherapy, (procedure code 95165) on a per vial basis. The vial is then delivered to the patient's primary care physician, who administers it to the beneficiary and seeks reimbursement using the appropriate procedure code for administering the injection (either 95115 for single injection or 95117 for two or more).

However, if the provider administering immunotherapy is also the provider who prepared the antigen, the provider utilizes procedure codes 95120 (single injection) or 95125 (two or more injections) that combine professional services for the provision of the allergenic extract and the injection.

Medicare requires providers to bill simultaneously for the provision of allergenic extract (code 95165) as a single dose and an injection code 95115. This inconsistency in billing instructions presents a billing problem for the providers and a difficulty in adjudicating crossover claims when the beneficiary has dual Medicare/Medicaid or Medicare/NJ KidCare fee-for-service coverage) for the Division.

ACTION: In order to make the Medicaid and NJ KidCare fee-for-service consistent with Medicare billing instructions, the Division is issuing the following amended billing instructions to be utilized for claims with dates of service on or after May 1, 1999.

1. Professional immunotherapy services must be billed by using procedure code 96165 (allergy extract per dose) in conjunction with the injection code 95115 or 95117.

2. When using procedure code 95117 (two or more injections) you must indicate, in the units of service, the number of injections given in order to receive appropriate reimbursement.
3. Billing for immunotherapy is to be done only by the providers administering the injections. The Division will no longer reimburse providers for the preparing of the antigen alone. Those providers must secure their payments from the providers that they prepare the antigen for.
4. The number of doses billed with procedure code 95165 must correspond with the number of injections billed, and be used in conjunction with the appropriate procedure codes (95115 or 95117).
5. Procedure codes 95120 and 95125 will not be payable for services rendered on or after May 1, 1999.
6. Below is an explanation of the codes and the reimbursement rate for each one. All providers who administer immunotherapy services are to utilize these codes.

HCPCS		MAXIMUM FEE ALLOWANCE	
CODES	PROCEDURE DESCRIPTION	S	NS
95165	Professional services for the supervision and provision of antigens for allergen immunotherapy; single or multiple allergens (specify number of doses).	\$4.50	\$4.50
	NOTE: The number of doses billed with procedure code 95165 must correspond with the number of injections billed, and be used in conjunction with the appropriate procedure codes (95115 or 95117).		

95115	Professional services for allergen immunotherapy not including provision of allergenic extract; single injection.	\$2.50	\$2.50
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NOTE: For Medicaid and NJ KidCare fee-for-service purposes, this code is for the injection only; it does not include the professional services outlined in 95165.

95117	two or more injections	\$2.50 per injection
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NOTE: For Medicaid and NJ KidCare fee-for-service purposes, this code is for the injection only; it does not cover the professional services outlined in 95165.

If you have any questions regarding this Newsletter, please contact Danuta U. Buzdygan, M.D., Chief Pediatric Consultant, Office of Health Service Administration, at (609) 588-2718.

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