



MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA * DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

NUMBER: 26-04-02

ISSUE DATE:
October 29, 2004

EFFECTIVE DATE:
November 1, 2004

SUBJECT: Procedure Code Changes for Ambulance Services

BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David S. Feinberg".

David S. Feinberg
Deputy Secretary for Medical Assistance Programs

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to notify ambulance providers of the national codes and modifiers which will be used in place of local codes and type of service effective with dates of service on or after November 1, 2004. In accordance with 55 Pa.Code §1150.61(a) (relating to guidelines for fee schedule changes), the Department of Public Welfare (Department) announces that effective November 1, 2004, national codes and modifiers for ambulance services, as applicable, will be used in place of local procedure codes and type of service. The local procedure codes will be end dated effective October 31, 2004. The changes will make the Medical Assistance (MA) Program processing procedures consistent with the procedure codes used for all other third party payers.

SCOPE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to notify ambulance providers of the national codes and modifiers which will be used in place of local codes and type of service effective with dates of service on or after November 1, 2004. In accordance with 55 Pa.Code §1150.61(a) (relating to guidelines for fee schedule changes), the Department of Public Welfare (Department) announces that effective November 1, 2004, national codes and modifiers for ambulance services, as applicable, will be used in place of local procedure codes and type of service. The local procedure codes will be end dated effective October 31, 2004. The changes will make the Medical Assistance (MA) Program processing procedures consistent with the procedure codes used for all other third party payers.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

The Department, with the goal of promoting Administrative Simplification along with the goal of reducing health care administrative costs and promoting continuity of care by facilitating electronic data interchange (EDI), has decided to implement the national ambulance procedure codes. As a result, and in compliance with Title II Administrative Simplification, the Department is releasing the attached crosswalk of national ambulance procedure codes and modifiers to be used in place of local procedure codes and type of service effective with dates of service on or after November 1, 2004. The local procedure codes will be end dated effective October 31, 2004.

PROCEDURE:

Effective with dates of service on or after November 1, 2004, ambulance providers enrolled in the MA Program who provide services

in both the FFS and managed care delivery systems are directed to refer to the attached crosswalk to determine the appropriate national code and modifier(s) to be used in place of local codes and type of service. Services rendered on October 31, 2004, or prior must be billed using the local code.

NOTE I: Attached is the revised fee schedule listing the new ambulance procedure codes with the appropriate informational (from-to) modifiers. Additionally, providers must use the pricing modifier U8 as identified on the attachment for mileage and conventional air services-fixed wing when billing for ambulance services. Failure to use the appropriate modifier(s) will result in inappropriate claims payment or claim denial.

- **Attachment A - Ambulance Procedure code crosswalk chart- Local codes to National codes with 2 alph (from- to) modifiers.**
- **Attachment B - National Code Modifier Table**

NOTE II: ACT 45, the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Act of 1988 requires that all ambulance providers be certified/licensed by the Department of Health (DOH) by 1990 in order to provide emergency ambulance services. Prior to the EMS law of 1988, ambulance companies were not required to be licensed/certified. Certification was strictly voluntary. Ambulance companies who did not receive DOH certification/licensure (Non-VASC- Voluntary Ambulance Service Certification) by 1990 could no longer provide emergency ambulance services.

The following local Non-VASC ambulance procedure codes are being end-dated effective October 31, 2004.

W0009- Non-VASC certified non-emergency transportation service, other unusual circumstances.

W0010- Non-VASC certified non-emergency transportation service

W0014- Non-VASC certified ambulance emergency (pre-hospital) transportation service

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

The appropriate toll-free number for your provider type.
Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs website at www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap.