

MEDICARE PART A BULLETIN

May 14, 1997

General Medicare Bulletin G-283

TO: All Medicare Providers

FROM: Andy DePirro, Director, Program Relations

SUBJECT: **NEW VALUE CODE (A4): EFFECTIVE FOR SERVICES RENDERED ON AND AFTER JULY 1, 1997**

ATTENTION MEDICARE BUSINESS OFFICE: Please distribute to all appropriate health care facility personnel.

The Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), in conjunction with the National Uniform Billing Committee (NUBC), has approved a new value code (A4), **effective for services rendered on and after July 1, 1997.**

REPORTING NEW VALUE CODE A4

The new value code (A4) is reported via the HCFA-1450 (UB-92) billing format, in form locators 39-41 (Value Codes and Amounts), when providers report an ordinarily non-covered, self-administered drug (insulin) in an emergency situation. In addition, a note has been added to Revenue Code 250 (Pharmacy) for clarification.

VALUE CODE (FL 39-41)	TITLE	DESCRIPTION
A4	Covered Self-Administrable Drugs - Emergency	The amount included in covered charges for self-administrable drugs administered to the patient in an emergency situation. (The only covered Medicare charges for an ordinarily non-covered, self-administered drug are for insulin administered to a patient in a diabetic coma.)

Revenue Code 250 (Pharmacy):

Value Code A4, in conjunction with revenue code 250, indicates the amount included for covered charges for the ordinarily non-covered, self-administered drug insulin administered in an emergency situation to a patient in a diabetic coma. **This is the only ordinarily non-covered, self-administered drug covered under Medicare with this value code.**

SELF-ADMINISTERED DRUGS AND BIOLOGICALS

Drugs and biologicals, furnished to outpatients for therapeutic purposes, that are self-administered are not covered by Medicare unless those drugs and biologicals must be put directly into an item of durable medical equipment or a prosthetic device. In this event, the statute provides for such coverage (including blood clotting factors, drugs used in immunosuppressive therapy, erythropoietin (EPO), certain oral anti-cancer drugs and their associated antiemetics), or the **ordinarily non-covered, self-administered drug insulin administered in an emergency situation to a patient in a diabetic coma.**

SELF-ADMINISTERED DRUG ADMINISTERED IN AN EMERGENCY SITUATION

Medicare will pay for the ordinarily non-covered, self-administered drug insulin administered in an emergency situation to a patient in a diabetic coma. The provider bills for this drug via the HCFA-1450 (UB-92) form, or its electronic equivalent, with an outpatient type of bill code (e.g., 13X or 83X). Value code A4, and its related dollar amount (the amount included in covered charges for the ordinarily non-covered, self-administered drug insulin administered to the patient in an emergency situation) is reported in form locators 39-41 (Value Codes and Amounts). The covered charges for the ordinarily non-covered, self-administered drug insulin (administered to the patient in an emergency situation) are reported in form locators 42 (Revenue Code) and 46 (Total Charges) under revenue code 250 (Pharmacy).

FORM LOCATOR(S)	TITLE	ENTRY DATA
42	Revenue Code	250
39-41	Value Code (and Amount)	A4 and associated dollars (Effective for services rendered on and after July 1, 1997)
47	Total Charges	Charges for insulin administered in an emergency situation

Note: When billing for this ordinarily non-covered, self-administered drug, providers must complete all required HCFA-1450 (UB-92) billing elements in accordance with regular billing instructions.

Questions regarding this bulletin may be addressed to the Medicare Part A Customer Service Department by calling (904)355-8899.