

MEDICARE PART A BULLETIN

September 5, 1997

General Medicare Bulletin G-299

TO: All Medicare Providers

FROM: Program Relations

SUBJECT: **HCFA CLARIFICATION REGARDING REPORTING OF DERMATOLOGY CODES: EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1997**

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

General Medicare Bulletin G-273, dated February 28, 1997, published the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) instructions for reporting three new dermatology codes (G0051, G0052, G0053). The purpose of this bulletin is to share HCFA's recent clarification regarding the appropriate use of these codes. HCFA's instructions signified that reporting code G0051 plus code G0052 would be equal to the reporting of the destruction of 14 lesions. In order to insure that this statement is not misinterpreted, HCFA is providing the following clarification:

- Code G0051 is for the reporting of the initial lesion. Code G0052 is for the reporting of each of the second through 14 lesions. Therefore, to bill for the destruction of 14 lesions, the hospital/provider must report code G0051 once, and then code G0052 with 13 units of service. The units of service for code G0052 may not exceed 13.

Providers who have not billed in accordance with HCFA's instructions may submit adjustment bills.

DERMATOLOGY CODES

These dermatology codes were added to the 1997 CPT coding structure for dates of services on and after January 1, 1997.

G0051 Destruction by any method, including laser, with or without surgical curettement of all benign or premalignant lesions (e.g. actinic keratosis), other than skin tags or cutaneous vascular proliferative lesions, including local anesthesia; initial lesion.

[Code G0051 replaced CPT codes 1700 and 17100]

G0052 Destruction by any method, including laser, with or without surgical curettement of all benign or premalignant lesions (e.g. actinic keratosis), other than skin tags or cutaneous vascular proliferative lesions, including local anesthesia; second through 14 lesions, each.

Example: G0051 = 1 lesion (1 unit)

G0052 = 13 lesions (13 units) [Second lesion up to 14 lesions]

G0051 plus G0052 = 14 lesions total

[Code G0052 replaced CPT codes 17001, 17002, 17101, and 17102]

G0053 Destruction by any method, including laser, with or without surgical curettement of all benign or premalignant lesions (e.g. actinic keratosis), other than skin tags or cutaneous vascular proliferative lesions, including local anesthesia; 15 lesions or more.

[Code G0053 replaced CPT codes 17010, 17104, and 17105]

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