

MEDICARE PART A BULLETIN

May 19, 1998

General Medicare Bulletin H-89

TO: All Participating Medicare Providers

FROM: Program Relations

SUBJECT: **POSITRON EMISSION TOMOGRAPHY (PET) SCANS: NEW HCPC CODES EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**

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

The purpose of this bulletin is to formally publish two new HCPCS codes for **Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Scans**. PET is a quantitative imaging technology that permits non-invasive measurements of regional tracer tissue concentrations in myocardial tissue, following administration of a radiotracer. Coronary revascularization procedures are of potential benefit to patients who have chronic coronary artery disease and poor left ventricular function. PET metabolic imaging for assessment of myocardial viability may improve the selection of patients for coronary revascularization.

NEW HCPCS CODES FOR POSITRON EMISSION TOMOGRAPHY (PET) SCANS

- G0125: PET lung imaging of solitary pulmonary nodules using 2-[fluorine-18] - fluoro-2-deoxy-D-glucose (FDG), following CT (71250/71260 or 71270).
- G0126: PET lung imaging of solitary pulmonary nodules using 2-[fluorine-18] -fluoro-2-deoxy-D-glucose (FDG), following CT (71250/71260 or 71270); or initial staging of pathologically diagnosed non-small cell lung cancer.

These codes represent the technical component costs associated with these procedures when furnished to hospital outpatients and are payable on a reasonable cost basis. They are reported with revenue code 404 (Positron Emission Tomography).

These codes should be used in conjunction with the CPT /HCPCS codes published via Hospital Medicare Bulletin H-48.

Hospitals may immediately bill for services applicable to Section 50-36, PET Scans, in the Medicare Coverage Issues Manual (HCFA Publication 6).

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