

MEDICARE PART A BULLETIN

January 16, 1998

General Medicare Bulletin G-315

TO: All Medicare Providers

FROM: Program Relations

SUBJECT: **OUTPATIENT FEE SCHEDULES EFFECTIVE FOR CLINICAL LABORATORY, ORTHOTICS/PROSTHETICS, SURGICAL DRESSINGS, RADIOLOGY, AND OTHER DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES RENDERED ON AND AFTER JANUARY 1, 1998**

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

The Medicare Part A outpatient fee schedules for clinical laboratory, orthotics/prosthetics, surgical dressings, outpatient radiology, and other diagnostic services are provided via this bulletin. The fee schedule reimbursement amounts are effective for services rendered on and after January 1, 1998. However, the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) extended a 90-day grace period where either 1997 and/or 1998 HCPCS codes will be accepted. Therefore, effective January 1, 1998 through March 31, 1998, providers may use either the 1997 and/or 1998 HCPCS codes. **Effective April 1, 1998, only the 1998 HCPCS codes will be accepted.**

How to order CPT Level I and/or HCPCS Level II

We strongly encourage providers to purchase the 1998 CPT Level I book and/or the 1998 HCPCS Level II coding book, because of the many changes annually to the HCPCS coding structure. Various binder versions of the 1997 CPT Level I book and/or the 1998 HCPCS Level II coding book are available from either St. Anthony's or the American Medical Association (AMA). For further information, contact:

- St. Anthony's at 1-800-632-0123 or
- AMA pre-paid orders to : American Medical Association
P.O. Box 109050
Chicago, Illinois 60610-0946

AMA credit card orders: 1-800-621-8335

LOCALITY STRUCTURE

HCFA announced its intention to reduce the number of localities nationally in 1997. This decision means that the State of Florida is now be divided into three geographic localities. ***Therefore, localities 01 and 02 are merged and are priced at the same fee schedule rate.*** For this reason, the Locality 1 fee schedule reimbursement information for both Radiology and Other Diagnostics is not replicated for Locality 2.

NOTE: Although the attached fee schedule listings do not reflect reimbursement in Locality 2, the Direct Data Entry (DDE) system will reflect all four (4) localities; however, localities 01 and 02 are the same fee schedule rate(s).

FEE SCHEDULE LISTINGS

HCFA, in conjunction with the Medicare Part B Carrier, developed the attached fee schedule amounts. The state is currently divided into three geographic localities. ***HCPCS for radiology (70010-79999), and other diagnostic services (90000 - 99199) are reimbursed by provider locality in the State of Florida.***

Unlike radiology and other diagnostic services, clinical laboratory, surgical dressings, and orthotics/prosthetics, ***are not reimbursed by fee schedule locality.*** These services are reimbursed based on the standard fee schedule for the State of Florida. In other words, all providers are reimbursed at the same fee schedule allowances regardless of geographic locality.

Attachments A through E provide fee schedule information, including the three Florida localities and keys to comprehending the fee schedule(s) for:

Clinical Laboratory	Attachment A
Orthotics/Prosthetics	Attachment B
Surgical Dressings	Attachment C
Radiology (by locality)	Attachment D
Other Diagnostic Services (by locality)	Attachment E

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

NOTE: THE FEE SCHEDULE ATTACHMENTS ARE NOT AVAILABLE IN THIS FORMAT. TO REQUEST A COMPLETE COPY OF THIS BULLETIN IN HARDCOPY FORM CONTACT THE CUSTOMER SERVICE DEPARTMENT (904/355-8899).