

This Computes!



Department of Health Care Services
Children's Medical Services Network
(CMS Net) - Information Bulletin #223

MODIFIER USAGE WITH COCHLEAR IMPLANT BILLING CODES

Effective November 1, 2005, modifiers for equipment, replacement parts, repair, and labor were revised for HIPPA compliance. The SAR system prompts the user to enter the appropriate modifier when individual codes are selected for authorization. However, **the cochlear implant device, replacement parts, and battery codes do NOT require a modifier, and NO MODIFIER should be selected.**

It has come to our attention that when a modifier is selected on the SAR, the provider's claim for payment will always be denied. SARs utilizing the following codes will have to be corrected or modified to have no modifier:

L8614	Cochlear implant device
L8615	Replacement headset/headpiece
L8616	Replacement microphone
L8617	Replacement transmitting coil
L8618	Replacement transmitter cable
L8619	Replacement external speech processor
L8621	Zinc aid battery, each
L8622	Alkaline battery, each
L8623	Lithium ion battery, other than ear level speech processor, each
L8624	Lithium ion battery, ear level speech processor, each

It should also be noted that these codes should only be authorized to the Hospital Outpatient Provider number (Type "14").

DME and hearing aid and hearing aid related codes should continue to use the modifiers as instructed in previous This Computes! Bulletins #105 and #136