

# This Computes!



Department of Health Care Services  
Children's Medical Services Network  
(CMS Net) - Information Bulletin #403

## Hypertonic Saline Solution for Inhalation-**Revised**

Due to programming issues, J7131 claims submitted to Medi-Cal's fiscal intermediary, Xerox, have been denying or generating a Resubmission Turnaround Document (RTD) informing the provider that the code is not valid or the service code is not on file for the date of service. Xerox has implemented a fix effective December 24, 2012.

Please inform pharmacy providers:

If the J7131 claim has generated a RTD, do not return the RTD but let the claim deny. Then resubmit all denied claims.

Further clarification on the Medi-Cal bulletin described below:

Effective September 1, 2012, the NDC for hypertonic saline 7% has been turned off, pharmacies must bill with J7131.

Effective April 1, 2013, the NDC for hypertonic saline 3%, 3.5%, and 10% will be turned off and pharmacies must bill with J7131. Until then, pharmacies may continue to bill with the NDC.

Effective immediately, J7131 has been added to SCG 01 and 02. A separate SAR will no longer be needed.

Effective September 1, 2012, hypertonic saline used for inhalation is no longer considered a pharmacy benefit billable by NDC. These products are now considered a medical supply benefit and must be billed by HCPCS, **J7131** (1 unit = 1ml of solution).

Medi-Cal Pharmacy Bulletin 781, August 2012:

## **New Medi-Cal Benefit: HCPCS Code J7131, Hypertonic Saline Solution, 1 ml**

Effective for dates of service on or after September 1, 2012, HCPCS Code J7131 (hypertonic saline solution, 1 ml) has been added as a Medi-Cal benefit with a maximum allowable product cost of \$0.1659 per milliliter. The sodium chloride for inhalation, hypertonic solutions, is used via nebulizer and available in various strengths that may range from 3 to 7 percent. An approved *Treatment Authorization Request* (TAR) or Service Authorization Request (SAR) is required. The sodium chloride for inhalation, hypertonic solutions, is not a pharmacy benefit and must be billed per milliliter as a medical supply benefit for outpatient beneficiaries using the HCPCS Level II Code J7131 with an approved TAR or SAR.

**Note:**

This medical supply is not separately billable for inpatients receiving Nursing Facility Level A (NF-A) or Nursing Facility Level B (NF-B) services, whether or not rendered in a hospital setting, or for inpatients receiving inpatient hospital services.

Pharmacy providers may continue to bill by NDC for services prior to August 31, 2012, but the claim must be paper billed, as the NDCs are now flagged as non-benefit items in the claims system.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Edan Lum, Pharm D., CMS Branch Pharmaceutical Consultant,  
916-327-2486 or 510-286-0722, [edan.lum@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:edan.lum@dhcs.ca.gov)