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Department of Health Services Children's Medical Services Network (CMS Net) - Information Bulletin #136

November 1, 2005 Hearing Aids/Accessories Changes

Effective November 1, 2005, billing codes and modifiers for hearing aids and hearing aid accessories and services will be revised in compliance with HIPAA.

Terminated Interim Modifiers

The following interim modifiers will be terminated and will no longer be available for use when issuing a SAR authorization:

- Y1 (rental without sales tax)
- Y2 (purchase or repair, without sales tax)
- Y6 (rental with sales tax)
- Y7 (purchase or repair, replacement parts, with sales tax)

The system modification will occur with the Nov 5th change cycle so that users will see the following error message if they select the modifiers Y1, Y2, Y6, or Y7 for SARs with dates of service on or after Nov. 1, 2005: "SARs with dates of service beyond 11/01/05 cannot have service codes with Y1, Y2, Y6, and Y7 Modifiers. Issue a second SAR to cover dates of service or modify existing SAR." You will be only be able to select the "Y" modifiers for SARs with dates of service prior to Nov 1, 2005.

Modifiers To Be Used

CCS authorizations for all hearing aid and hearing aid related codes must now be issued with national modifier -NU (purchase), or -RR (rental), as appropriate.

HPCPS code V5014 (repair/modification of a hearing aid) must be authorized with modifier -RP (repair/replacement).

Terminated Interim Codes

The following interim HCPCS codes will be terminated and should not be authorized on or after November 1, 2005:

Z3604 (postage and handling for repairs). This will no longer be a Medi-Cal benefit.

Z3606 (hearing aid rental, any type, per day). The daily hearing aid rental rate will be added as the rental rate for all currently payable hearing aid HCPCS codes by adding RR to the authorized code.