

Dear PMC Members,

The Durable Medical Equipment Regional Carriers (DMERCs) announced changes to the Local Coverage Determination (“LCD”) and an updated Policy Article (“PA”) for power mobility devices (PMDs). These changes, which are retroactively effective as of 1/1/06, include guidance on downcoding payment for a motorized wheelchair, documentation requirements, and coding guidelines.

Downcoding

The LCD has changed the payment procedures for when the motorized wheelchair coverage criteria are not met. Previously, the carrier could only reject a claim for a motorized wheelchair if it was determined the claim was not covered. Under the revised LCD, if the coverage criteria are not met for a motorized wheelchair but the coverage criteria for a POV are met, the carrier may downcode and base payment on the allowance for a POV. This change to the LCD is included in the section on “Indications and Limitations of Coverage and/or Medical Necessity.”

Documentation Requirements

The sections on documentation requirements for both the LCD and PA have been changed. The new LCD & PA have both eliminated any guidance regarding claims with dates of service prior to 10/25/2005.

Coding Guidelines

The PA also made an alteration to the coding guidelines. The guidance previously stated, “Codes E1210-1220 should only be used to bill for maintenance and service for an item for which the initial claim was paid by the local carrier prior to the transition to the DMERC.” The revised PA has eliminated the reference to E1210-1213 and now reads, “Code E1220 should only be used to bill for maintenance and service for an item for which the initial claim was paid by the local carrier prior to the transition to the DMERC.”

The current and previous versions of the LCDs and PVs are available on the CMS website.

The previous LCD (effective date 5/5/05) is available at:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/mcd/viewlcd.asp?lcd_id=11466&lcd_version=20&show=all

The current LCD (effective date 1/1/06) is available at:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/mcd/viewlcd.asp?lcd_id=11466&lcd_version=23&basket=lcd%3A11466%3A23%3AMotorized%2FPower+Wheelchair+Bases%3ADMERC%3ATricenturion++%2877011%29%3A

The previous PA (effective date 5/5/05) is available at:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/mcd/viewarticle_popup.asp?from=basket&type=article&page=viewarticle.asp&&from_id=25312&from_ver=8&article_id=25312&article_version=6

The current PA (effective date 1/1/06) is available at:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/mcd/viewarticle_popup.asp?from=basket&type=article&page=viewlmp.asp&article_id=25312&article_version=8