

Dear PMC Members:

Late yesterday, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released new HCPCS codes for Power Mobility Devices (PMDs). According to CMS, these new codes more accurately reflect the range of PMDs currently on the market and will allow CMS to make more reliable payments and, ultimately, more easily detect fraud and abuse. The PMC is concerned, however, with the complexity of the new coding structure, reimbursement under the codes (which is not yet released) and the ability of beneficiaries to obtain the proper PMD if their mobility further deteriorates.

CMS states that the revised codes are the product of extensive discussions with industry and other experts in the field and closely mirror the recommendations of a technical expert panel (TEP) that was convened in February 2006. The 14-member TEP was comprised of suppliers, manufacturers, testing facilities, rehabilitation engineers, and clinicians.

The next step in CMS' PMD initiative is to implement these revised codes through pricing and local coverage policies for mobility assistive equipment. This will result in a more accurate description of these important technologies and support appropriate payments by Medicare. The PMC will monitor the implementation of the new coding process and alert PMC members as to pricing and other developments.

The new codes may be viewed on the SADMERC website at:

<http://www.palmettogba.com/SADMERC> .

(Click on the heading “**What’s New**” under the “**Welcome to SADMERC**” banner to reach the wheelchair code posting.)

Additional information about the new HCPCS codes for PMDs can be found on the CMS website at: http://www.cms.hhs.gov/DMEPOSFeeSched/01a_Power_Mobility_Devices.asp .