

NEW CODING CHANGES FOR MEDICARE

EFFECTIVE JAN. 1, 2005

G-Codes and their meaning:

- > Medicare has adopted a new series of drug administration codes for use in 2005.
- > Medicare is implementing these codes through **TEMPORARY G-CODES**.
- > The extent to which they will be adopted by secondary carriers is unknown.
- > **G-CODES ARE FOR MEDICARE USE ONLY!** Continue to use CPT codes for all other insurers!
- > The new G codes distinguish between the "initial" infusion or other type of drug administration and a sequential administration of the same type. **Only one "initial" service**

- may be billed during each patient encounter.** Where there are multiple types of administrations in the same encounter (i.e. both chemotherapy infusions and non-chemotherapy infusions), an issue is whether the "initial" service must always be the service that was performed first. CMS states that the "initial" code should be used for the action "that best describes the services... irrespective of the order in which the infusions occur."
- > CMS will now recognize IV pushes of non-chemotherapy agents.
- > CMS will now pay for the following: An E&M code and also Sub Q or IM injection, Therapeutic Push and Port Flush.

CODING AND PAYMENT CHANGES FOR MEDICARE DRUG ADMINISTRATION CODES

Payment amounts reflect national averages for office-based (non-facility) settings

*See notes on p. 28 for more information

HYDRATION					
(Apply to pre-packaged fluid and electrolytes, e.g. saline)					
2005 Medicare Codes	2005 Code Description	2005 Payment Rate (Includes 3% Add-On)	2004 Medicare (CPT) Codes	2004 Code Description	2004 Payment Rate (Includes 32% Add-On)
G0345	Initial hour of IV hydration, initial, up to 1 hour	\$64.80	90780	Initial hour, IV infusion for tx/dx (including saline), up to 1 hour	\$117.79
G0346	Each additional hour of hydration, up to 8 hours	\$20.69	90781	Each additional hour of IV infusion for tx/dx, up to 8 hours	\$33.02
THERAPEUTIC/DIAGNOSTIC DRUG ADMINISTRATION					
(Apply to non-chemotherapy agents)					
2005 Medicare Codes	2005 Code Description	2005 Payment Rate (Includes 3% Add-On)	2004 Medicare (CPT) Codes	2004 Code Description	2004 Payment Rate (Includes 32% Add-On)
G0347	Initial hour of IV infusion, initial tx/dx drug, up to 1 hour	\$79.24	90780	Initial hour, IV infusion for tx/dx (including saline), up to 1 hour	\$117.79
G0348	Each additional hour of tx/dx infusion, up to 8 hours	\$26.54	90781	Each additional hour of IV infusion for tx/dx, up to 8 hours	\$33.02