

# Changes for Medicare 2008



Below are the most prominent changes we will incur for 2008. Some of these changes will also affect other insurance carriers as well, for example, the drug and diagnosis code changes.

The ESA changes are specific for Medicare, however, members should refer to their own carriers for further instruction on their specific requirements.

- 1.** There has been the issuance of new J-codes for drugs. There has been further coding delineating the different immune globulins available for infusion.
  - a. J1561-immune globulin (Gammunex), non-lyophilized 500 mg
  - b. J1566-immune globulin, not otherwise specified—use for Carimune 500mg
  - c. J1568-immune globulin (Octagam), 500mg
  - d. J1569-immune globulin (Gammagard), 500 mg
  - e. J1572-immune globulin (Flebogamma), 500 mg

---

- 2.** A new code has been issued for zoledronic acid:
  - a. J 3487-injection zoledronic acid (ZOMETA), 1mg
  - b. J3488-injection zoledronic acid (RECLAST), 1 mg

---

- 3.** New code for panitumumab (Vectibix), 10 mg

---

- 4.** Physicians Quality Reporting Initiative has begun January 1, 2008 and will continue through December 31, 2008. There is still time to participate. No enrollment needed. For further information, refer to [www.cms.hhs.gov/pqri](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/pqri).

---

- 5.** Diagnosis codes have changed as of October 1, 2007. There are some new codes which further define lymphoma. Refer to [www.cdc.gov/nchs/icd9.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/icd9.htm).

---

- 6.** Effective January 1, 2008, CMS requires a recent hemoglobin or hematocrit to appear on all claims utilizing anti-anemia drugs. The implementation date of this requirement is April 1, 2008. This is the time in which Medicare carriers will set up their systems to accept this new information. Refer to your local Medicare carrier for specific information.

---

- 7.** New modifiers have also been implemented in ESA use and billing.
  - a. Modifier EA indicates the anemia is secondary to anti-cancer chemotherapy
  - b. Modifier EB indicates the anemia is secondary to anti-cancer radiotherapy
  - c. Modifier EC indicates the anemia is not due to anti-cancer chemotherapy or anti-cancer radiotherapy

Refer to [www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R1413CP.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R1413CP.pdf)

And [www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R1412CP.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R1412CP.pdf)