This Computes!

Department of Health Care Services
Children's Medical Services Network
(CMS Net) - Information Bulletin #325

Billing for Heparin Flush Products-Revised

It has come to the attention of the CMS Branch that the Medi-Cal Program (applies to CCS and GHPP also) no longer considers heparin flush products to be drugs but now views them as medical supplies. The change resulted from the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) no longer considering heparin flush products to be drugs and not approving most of these products as drugs. The FDA has ordered all manufacturers to stop using the 11-digit codes. As a result, Electronic Data Systems (EDS), Medi-Cal's fiscal intermediary, has been end-dating the 11-digit codes in the payment system.

The Medi-Cal Program has now reclassified heparin flush products as medical supply items but continues to allow the use of an 11-digit NDC-like code. Under the Medi-Cal TAR system, an approved TAR will over-ride the end-date in the payment system. In the CMSNET system, heparin flush product authorizations to a pharmacy provider will require a separate SAR, like diabetic test strips, lancets, and insulin syringes.

For CCS counties to authorize heparin flush products to a pharmacy provider:

- They must receive the 11-digit code, similar to an NDC code, for the heparin flush product from the provider
- Search for the code in the CMSNET system as "medical supplies"
- If the search results in an identified product but the end-date has passed, email the 11-digit code to CMS Branch (see email address below) and a request will be made to change the end-date to allow SAR authorization of the product

Pharmacy providers can no longer claim for heparin flush products with an SCG SAR.

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Non-pharmacy providers will continue to bill heparin flushes using the Medi-Cal only (local) “X” codes (e.g., X6282, X6284, etc.) with a SCG SAR. These codes are in SCG 01, 02, 03, and 07.

If you have any questions, please contact:
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