A CELERIAN GROUP COMPANY

INSULIN FOR INSULIN INFUSION PUMPS
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We IMPACT lives.

Dear Physician,

Do you have patients on Medicare who use an insulin pump?

The Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractors (DME MACs) were made aware of an issue with pharmacies billing Medicare Part D for insulin used in a durable external insulin infusion pump. The DME MACs have jurisdiction for DME and related supplies covered by traditional Medicare. Payment under Medicare Part D is prohibited when there is coverage available under a Medicare Part B benefit. In the case of insulin, when it is administered via a Part B-covered durable external insulin infusion pump, payment from Part D is excluded. When the insulin is administered via a disposable pump (e.g., OmniPod, V-Go), the pump and insulin are not covered by Medicare Part B; however, coverage is potentially available from Medicare Part D.

Because of this distinction in coverage, it is helpful for the pharmacist to know the method of administration for the insulin – syringe injection versus insulin pump and, if using a pump, whether it is a durable versus disposable insulin pump. To assist the pharmacist in billing the correct payer for insulin administered via an external pump, we recommend that you specifically state on your orders, the type of pump by which the insulin will be administered, such as “Insulin for Durable Insulin Pump” or “Insulin for Disposable Insulin Pump” (or similar language indicating the method of administration and type of pump). Including the type of pump (durable or disposable) in the order information will help ensure that the pharmacy bills the correct payer and avoids unnecessary claim denials for your patients.

Details on the coverage, coding, and documentation requirements for durable external infusion pumps may be found in the External Infusion Pumps Local Coverage Determination (LCD) (L33794), located in the Medicare Coverage Database (https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database).

Sincerely,

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