

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



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Implementation Date: January 3, 2017

New Revenue Code 0815 for Allogeneic Stem Cell Acquisition Services

Provider Types Affected

This MLN Matters® Article is intended for physicians, other providers, and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for stem cell transplant services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

What You Need to Know

Medicare systems will accept revenue code 0815 (Allogeneic Stem Cell Acquisition/Donor Services), recently created by the National Uniform Billing Committee (NUBC), effective January 1, 2017, when submitted on hospital claims (Types of Bill (TOB) 011x, 012x, 013x, or 085x). Make sure that your billing staffs are aware of this change.

Background

Hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) is a process that includes mobilization, harvesting, and transplant of stem cells and the administration of high dose chemotherapy and/or radiotherapy prior to the actual transplant. During the process stem cells are harvested from either the patient (autologous) or a donor (allogeneic) and subsequently administered by intravenous infusion to the patient.

Payment for these acquisition services is included in the Outpatient Prospective Payment System Ambulatory Payment Classification (OPPS APC) payment for the allogeneic stem cell transplant when the transplant occurs in the hospital outpatient setting, and in the Medicare Severity-Diagnosis Related Group (MS-DRG) payment for the allogeneic stem cell transplant when the transplant occurs in the inpatient setting. MACs do not make separate payments for

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these acquisition services, because hospitals may bill and receive payment only for services provided to the Medicare beneficiary who is the recipient of the stem cell transplant and whose illness is being treated with the stem cell transplant. Unlike the acquisition costs of solid organs for transplant (for example, hearts and kidneys), which are paid on a reasonable cost basis, acquisition costs for allogeneic stem cells are included in the prospective payment.

Acquisition charges for stem cell transplants apply only to allogeneic transplants, for which stem cells are obtained from a donor (other than the recipient himself or herself). Acquisition charges do not apply to autologous transplants (transplanted stem cells are obtained from the recipient himself or herself), because autologous transplants involve services provided to the beneficiary only (and not to a donor), for which the hospital may bill and receive payment. (See the “Medicare Claims Processing Manual,” [Chapter 3](#), Section 90.3 and [Chapter 4](#), Section 231, for information regarding billing for autologous stem cell transplants.)

Currently, when the allogeneic stem cell transplant occurs in the outpatient setting, the hospital identifies stem cell acquisition charges for allogeneic bone marrow/stem cell transplants separately in FL 42 of Form CMS-1450 (or electronic equivalent) by using revenue code 0819 (Other Organ Acquisition). Revenue code 0819 charges should include all services required to acquire stem cells from a donor, as defined above, and should be reported on the same date of service as the transplant procedure in order to be appropriately packaged for payment purposes.

Stakeholders have expressed concern that the acquisition costs are not being accurately reflected in the transplant procedure as Revenue Code 0819 maps to cost center code 086XX (Other organ acquisition where XX is “00” through “19”) and is reported on line 112 (or applicable subscripts of line 112) of the Form CMS-2552-10 cost report.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) requested and NUBC approved a new Revenue Code 0815 to be used when the hospital identifies stem cell acquisition charges for allogeneic bone marrow/stem cell transplants separately.

Additional Information

The official instruction, CR 9674 issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R3571CP.pdf>.

If you have any questions, please contact your MAC at their toll-free number. That number is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/Medicare-FFS-Compliance-Programs/Review-Contractor-Directory-Interactive-Map/>.

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