



PROVIDER COMMUNICATION: ELIMINATION OF LUMP SUM PAYMENT FOR POWER WHEELCHAIRS

Prior to January 1, 2011, power wheelchairs suppliers have been required to offer beneficiaries the option of receiving power wheelchairs on either a lump sum purchase basis or monthly rental basis. Effective for items furnished on or after January 1, 2011, Medicare; and therefore, Care Improvement Plus, eliminates the lump sum purchase payment for standard power wheelchairs classified under the HCPCS codes for Group 1 power wheelchairs or Group 2 power wheelchairs without additional power options. The current HCPCS codes that identify standard power wheelchairs include codes K0813 thru K0831 and code K0898 for miscellaneous standard power wheelchairs. A power wheelchair purchased at full price was presented on the claim with modifiers “NU” or “UE” and the appropriate HCPCS code above. The power wheelchairs that will now be furnished to the member will be made on a monthly rental basis. The appropriate HCPCS code will need to be billed utilizing the “RR” modifier. Suppliers will then be required to transfer the equipment title for the rented power wheelchairs to the beneficiary after the 13th month of continuous use as like other capped rentals.

Note: Payment can continue to be made on a lump sum purchase basis or monthly rental basis for complex rehabilitative power wheelchairs. Complex rehabilitative power wheelchairs include Group 2 power wheelchairs with additional power options and Group 3 and higher power wheelchairs (HCPCS codes K0835 through K0843 and K0848 through K0864).

For More Information: Attachment B of CR 7116, which is available at <http://www.cms.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R786OTN.pdf>

Key Things to Remember When Billing for Power Wheelchairs

- This change will not apply to standard power wheelchairs furnished to beneficiaries in the nine competitive bidding areas (CBAs) of Round 1 Rebid of the durable medical equipment,

prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS) competitive bidding program with dates of service January 1, 2011 thru December 31, 2013.

- The monthly fee schedule amounts for rental of standard and complex rehabilitative power wheelchairs is effective on or after January 1, 2011.
- Payment policy for accessories did not change.
- A “patient requested upgrade” from a Group 2 power wheelchair to a Group 3 does not retain the option to purchase like other Group 3’s.