

Provider Insider

Alabama Medicaid Bulletin

January 2011

The Remittance Advice (RA) schedule is as follows:

01/07/11 01/21/11 02/04/11 02/18/11 03/04/11 03/18/11

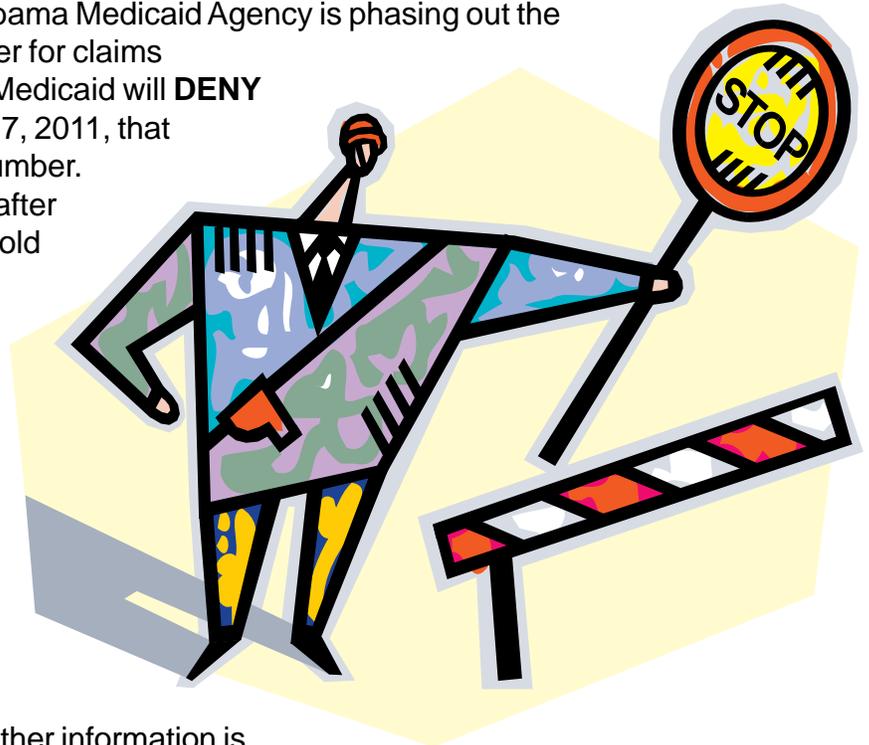
The release of funds is normally the second Monday after the RA date. Please verify direct deposit status with your bank. Go to www.medicaid.alabama.gov to view the payment delay update details. Payment alerts will be posted only if there will be a payment delay. As always, the release of direct deposits and checks depends on the availability of funds.

Medicaid Will No Longer Accept Old Recipient ID Numbers

After four years of transition, the Alabama Medicaid Agency is phasing out the acceptance of the old Medicaid ID number for claims processing, effective January 17, 2011. Medicaid will **DENY** any claims received on or after January 17, 2011, that are submitted with the old Medicaid ID number.

All new Medicaid ID numbers issued after the conversion also begin with a "5". The old Medicaid ID number begins with "000". Please verify the Medicaid ID number for Medicaid recipients at the time of service. If the Medicaid ID number begins with "000", obtain the correct Medicaid ID number before submitting the claim to Medicaid for processing.

Providers with questions about the new recipient ID numbers should contact the Provider Help Desk at 1-800-688-7989. Medicaid recipients with questions about the new ID numbers should call toll-free at 1-800-362-1504. Other information is available at: http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/news/medicaid_id_numbers.aspx?tab=2



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Pass It On!

Everyone needs to know the latest about Medicaid.

Be sure to route this to:

- Office Manager
- Billing Dept.
- Medical/Clinical Professionals
- Other _____

Attention Eyecare Providers

Effective December 1, 2010, procedure code V2020 (Vision Services Frames Purchase) will have a maximum reimbursement rate of \$13.95 per 1 unit.

Telemedicine Services

Effective October 1, 2010, the requirement for the 50 mile radius for telecommunication services was removed.

Periodic EPSDT Screening Will Not Be Billable in Hospital Setting

Effective January 1, 2011, Periodic EPSDT screening codes 99382-EP-99385-EP and 99392-EP-99395-EP will not be billable in the hospital setting (inpatient, outpatient, ER). You may continue to bill the interperiodic screening code using procedure code 99233-EP in the inpatient setting. This change is being made to support the use of the medical home concept for Medicaid recipients.

5010 Transactions Testing Will Begin Soon

The Alabama Medicaid Agency is currently working on the 5010 transactions. The testing for the provider and vendor community is expected to start by the summer of 2011.

Once a firm start date for testing has been established, the Alabama Medicaid Agency will notify providers and vendors through the use of mail, email, website notices, and the "Provider Insider" publications.



Web-Based Provider Enrollment and Update Application Coming in April

The Alabama Medicaid Agency will implement a Web-Based Provider Enrollment and Update Application in April 2011. All providers will be required to utilize the on-line application.

Once a provider or his/her representative completes the minimal required information, a Tracking Number will be generated. The tracking number must be retained to retrieve and complete a saved application or to check the status of a submitted application.

Providers will be required to submit supporting hard-copy documentation to HP. Instructions will be given to the provider for mailing the supporting documentation. Until the supporting documentation (with original signatures) is received, the application is not considered complete.

The on-line application will feature

- drop down lists which simplify entering information by reducing keystrokes
- online edits to reduce errors
- online help will be supplemented by Provider Enrollment Specialists

Training will be provided by HP to educate providers on the new Web-Based Enrollment and Update Application by providing onsite training for large provider groups and workshops will be held as necessary. More details will be forthcoming regarding the new Web-Based Enrollment and Update Application.

Changes Concerning CT Heart Codes

Beginning dates of service January 1, 2011 and thereafter CT heart codes 75571, 75572, 75573, 75574 will be covered through MedSolutions with prior authorization for ages 0-18. Providers with questions may contact Carolyn Thompson, Program Manager, Lab/X-ray services at carolyn.thompson@medicaid.alabama.gov or by phone at 334-242-5048.

Important Information About Fee Schedules

The fee schedules located on the Alabama Medicaid website are prepared as tools to assist Medicaid providers and are not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. Every effort is made to assure the accuracy of the information within the fee schedules as of the date they are posted. Medicaid makes no guarantee that this compilation of fee schedule information is error-free and will bear no responsibility or liability for the results or consequences of the use of these schedules.

The fee schedules are not an all inclusive list of procedure codes covered by the Agency. These fee schedules do not reflect all information required for reimbursement of procedures such as prior authorization requirements, provider type and specialty restrictions, other coverage restrictions.

As the ultimate responsibility lies with the provider of service, it is recommended that providers contact the Provider Assistance Center at 1-800-688-7989 for confirmation of coverage and/or prior authorization requirements for the recipient and date of service in question.



Medicaid Introduces a Drug/NDC Lookup System

Effective October 5, 2010, the Alabama Medicaid Agency implemented a drug/NDC lookup system. The system allows providers to search for a drug by name or by NDC, and will provide the following information for outpatient pharmacy claims:

- If a drug is covered or non-covered
- If a drug is preferred or non-preferred
- If a prior authorization (PA) is required (PA outside of PDL)
- The maximum quantity allowed per month
- Reimbursement rate per unit

Prescribers/providers can also access the system to verify coverage of an NDC for the billing of a HCPCS code. Please note that pricing, prior authorization requirements, and maximum quantity limits listed do not apply for HCPCS claims, but the drug coverage field does apply.

To access the NDC Drug Lookup system, please visit the Alabama Medicaid website and click on the "Drug Look Up" link under the Pharmacy Services page.



Helpful Hints for using the drug/NDC lookup system:

- When looking up a drug by NDC, do not include dashes or spaces in the NDC number.
- Please include a date if looking for information specific to a certain timeframe.
- When looking at a brand drug when a generic equivalent is available (DAW code of 1), please check the 'Dispense As Written' box to view the appropriate reimbursement rate for the brand version.

For more information or questions regarding the NDC Drug Lookup System, please call Health Information Designs at 1-800-748-0130.

Clarification for Billing J2001

Procedure code J2001 (Injection, lidocaine HCL for intravenous infusion, 10 mg) should not be billed when lidocaine/xylocaine is utilized for local anesthesia associated with a procedure (e.g. mixed with another drug for injection, bursa injection, Trigger point injections). The dosage indicated by the code description is specific to the treatment of cardiac arrhythmias and emergent care only. NCCI edits bundle procedure code J2001 therefore it should not be billed separately unless the patient is treated intravenously for cardiac arrhythmia. The CPT surgical package includes "local infiltration, metacarpal/metatarsal, digital block or topical anesthesia". If you use lidocaine as an anesthetic, consider the injection a component of the medical procedure. Claims are subject to post-payment review and adjustment.

Upcoming Changes to Psychological Billing

During the past year, a workgroup consisting of Alabama Medicaid Agency staff and representatives from the Alabama Psychological Association has collaborated to identify changes that enable the agency to maintain a basic package of services while preserving the health care safety net for our most vulnerable citizens. As a result of this effort, the following changes will be implemented on January 1, 2011:

Effective for dates of service January 1, 2011, and thereafter, the following codes annual max limits has been changed as follows:

- The following codes will have a combined annual max limitation of 12 units:
 - ◆ 90849 and 90853
- The following codes will have a combined annual max limitation of 26 units:
 - ◆ 90806, 90812, 90818, 90826 and 90847
- The following codes will have a combined annual max limitation of 52 units:
 - ◆ 90804, 90810, 90816, and 90823

The Alabama Medicaid Agency will not cover the following therapies:

- Equine assisted psychotherapy
- Biofeedback therapy
- Neurobiofeedback therapy
- Sleep therapy
- Dance therapy
- Music therapy
- Art therapy

If you have further questions contact Karen Smith via phone at 334-353-4945 or e-mail at: karen.watkins-smith@medicaid.alabama.gov

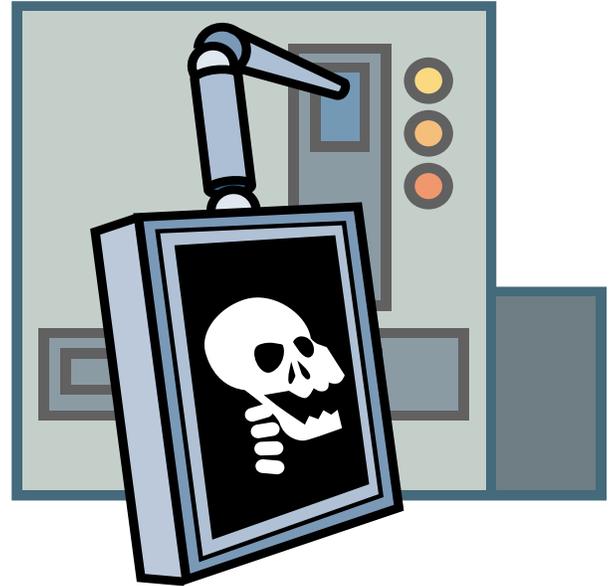


Radiology Management Program "Gold Card" Changes

Effective January 1, 2011, changes will be made to the "Gold Card" status based on Agency evaluation of prior authorization requests made between October 1, 2009 and September 30, 2010. The following changes will be made:

- Providers with "Gold Card" who maintained a 5% or less denial rate during the above timeframe will continue to have "Gold Card" status.
- Providers who currently have "Gold Card" status with low request volume will continue to have "Gold Card" status.
- Providers with high volume and high denial rate (>5%) will be removed from gold carding.
- Providers with high volume and low denial rates who will be added to the "Gold Card" program.

The status of all providers will be re-evaluated after one year. Redetermination will be based on the preceding 12 months' worth of data. Providers with questions may contact Carolyn Thompson, Program Manager, Lab/X-ray services by phone at (334) 242-5048 or email carolyn.thompson@medicaid.alabama.gov.



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