

Revised Information for PET Scan Coding - Contractor Instruction

Background

All Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Scans services (codes 78549, 78491, 78492, 78608, and 78811-78816) require the use of a radiopharmaceutical diagnostic imaging agent (tracer.) Therefore, the applicable tracer code should be used when billing for a PET scan service.

Contractor Instructions

Effective for services on and after January 1, 2008, NHIC, Corp. will deny claims for PET Scan services that contain HCPCS code A4641. Effective January 1, 2008, HCPCS code A4641 is not an applicable tracer for PET Scans.

You should not report HCPCS code A4641 when submitting claims for PET Scans for services on or after January 1, 2008. Instead, as of that time, when submitting claims for PET Scans containing CPT code 78491 or 78492 you should use only tracer code A9555 or A9526; and, when submitting claims for PET Scans containing CPT code 78459, 78608, or 78811-78816, you should use only tracer code A9552. For services on or after January 1, 2006, when submitting claims for PET Scan services containing CPT codes 78459, 78608, or 78811-78816, you are to use only the tracer code A9552.

As a reminder, effective for services on and after January 28, 2005, claims for PET Scan services that contain CPT code 78609 are denied. Note: CPT 78609 will have an 'N' indicator on the October 2007 MPFSDB (fee schedule) update.

You can find more information about PET Scan codes by going to the MLN 5665 Article at the following website:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5665.pdf>

8/9/07

Reference: CR 5665