

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

CODING: New Codes Mean Changes for Billing Surgical Dressings, Defibrillators

Physicians and suppliers have a host of new "K" codes to get familiar with thanks to a trio of April 11 program memoranda from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Starting in July, you'll bill two new codes for surgical dressings, according to transmittal AB-03-043: K0620 for tubular elastic dressing, any width, per linear yard; and K0621 for gauze, packing strips, non-impregnated, less than or equal to two inches, per linear yard.

And CMS also added temporary K codes for dialysis supplies, speech-generating devices, automatic defibrillators and supplies in transmittal AB-03-044. K0610 through K0614 cover dialysis supplies, including clamps, extension lines and cleaning solutions.

The new codes K0615 through K0617 will cover speech-generating devices with digitized speech and prerecorded messages. The different codes cover devices with more or less recording time. These codes replace K0542, which CMS is retiring.

Also, [K0606](#) will cover automatic defibrillators with integrated electrocardiogram analysis, and K0607 through K0609 will cover defibrillator supplies such as replacement batteries, garments and electrodes.

Finally, transmittal AB-03-045 added K0618 and K0619 to cover thoracic lumbar sacral orthoses with either two or three rigid plastic shells.