

Eli's Rehab Report

Reader Question: HCPCS Codes Billed to DME Provider

Question: I know that any codes beginning with E or L must be billed by a durable medical equipment (DME) provider. Does this mean that all other HCPCS codes can be billed by a physicians office?

Oregon Subscriber

Answer: For the most part, yes. The guidelines at the beginning of each section (e.g., A, B, C, etc.) state which codes are billable to the DMERC (durable medical equipment regional carrier). Specifically, it states, Medicare claims for E codes fall under the jurisdiction of the DME regional carrier, unless otherwise noted. Similarly, claims in section A (transportation services) fall under the jurisdiction of the local carrier.

The HCPCS guide also contains special notations for codes subject to carrier discretion and those not covered by Medicare. Some codes in sections E and L may be billable by physicians offices, but such rules vary between the four regional DMERC carriers. Contact your DMERC carrier or review its policies before billing any HCPCS codes with which you are not familiar.

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