NEW HCPCS CODE FOR OBESITY SCREENING AND COUNSELING

As part of an annual update of HCPCS codes by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in late 2011, a new code was created for obesity counseling and obesity screening, and is covered as preventive services.

**New HCPCS Code**
G0447  Face-to-face behavioral counseling for obesity, 15 minutes

The code is applicable to all MVP Medicare Advantage plan members when services occur in the primary care setting (effective 11/29/2011) and may be used by the following specialties:

- Certified clinical nurse specialist
- Family practice
- General practice
- Geriatric medicine
- Internal medicine
- Nurse practitioner
- OB/GYN
- Pediatric medicine
- Physician assistant

MVP’s fee schedules are updated to include this new code. The RVU in the non-facility setting is 0.71 and the RVU in the facility setting is 0.65

Medicare beneficiaries with obesity (BMI ≥ 30) are eligible for obesity counseling services in the primary care setting as follows:

- One face-to-face visit every week for the first month;
- One face-to-face visit every other week for months 2-6; and
- One face-to-face visit every month for months 7-12, if the beneficiary meets the 3 kg (6.6 lbs) weight loss requirement during the first 6 months.
- G0447 must be billed with 1 of the ICD-9 codes for BMI 30.0 & over (V85.30-V85.39, V85.41-V85.45). (ICD-10 codes will be Z68.30-Z68.39, Z68.41-Z68.45)

Please see CMS CR#7641 for additional information.

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