

ASSIGNMENT OF J1 STATUS INDICATOR TO CPT 68841 FOR CY 2024

**ADVISORY PANEL ON HOSPITAL
OUTPATIENT PAYMENT**

AUGUST 21-22, 2023

RECOMMENDATION REQUESTED

- We have a single recommendation that we ask the Panel to make, with the following suggested language:

The Panel recommends that CMS assign CPT code 68841 a status indicator of J1



CPT CODE 68841

- Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®)* code 68841 (Insertion of drug-eluting implant, including punctal dilation when performed, into lacrimal canaliculus, each)
- Used to report insertion of Dextenza®, which is approved for the treatment of ocular inflammation and pain following ophthalmic surgery and for the treatment of ocular itching associated with allergic conjunctivitis
- Procedure may be done with another ophthalmic procedure or not
- Predominantly done in the ambulatory surgical center (ASC) setting

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DESCRIPTION OF THE ISSUE

- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) proposes to assign CPT code 68841 into Ambulatory Payment Classification (APC) 5503 (Level 3, Extraocular, Repair, and Plastic Eye Procedures) with a Q1 status indicator
- The proposed Q1 status indicator leads to no payment to ASCs for furnishing the service, where more than 80% of these procedures are performed
- Assignment of a Q1 status indicator also treats 68841 differently than other, similar procedures involving delivery of a medication into the eye that have a J1 status indicator and ASC payment
 - ✓ 66030 (Injection, anterior chamber of eye (separate procedure); medication) – proposed J1 status indicator and \$1,164.90 ASC payment rate
 - ✓ 0699T (Injection, posterior chamber of eye, medication) – proposed J1 status indicator and \$1,164.90 ASC payment rate



RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE

- ***The Panel should recommend that CMS assign CPT code 68841 a status indicator of J1 to ensure ASC payment***
 - ✓ Proposed APC assignment is appropriate based on OPPS claims data
 - ✓ Q1 status indicator leads to no payment in the ASC causing a significant access issue because this is the primary setting of care for the service and there are significant facility resources expended
 - ✓ Would align payment policy for 68841 with that of other similar procedures delivering medication into the eye that are assigned J1 status indicators and ASC payment rates
 - ✓ CPT code 68841 is currently the only code proposed to be assigned to APC 5503 that does not have a J1 status indicator

