

ASSIGNMENT OF CPT 68841 TO OPPS APC 5503 FOR CY 2023

ADVISORY PANEL ON HOSPITAL
OUTPATIENT PAYMENT

AUGUST 22-23, 2022

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) 5694 (Level 4 Drug Administration) with a proposed payment rate of \$338.58 and a geometric mean of \$341.39
- This proposed APC assignment includes a Q1 status indicator for CPT code 68841, which means no payment for the service in ASCs
- The predecessor code to CPT code 68841 (CPT code 0356T) has a geometric mean of \$2,227.06 based on 33 single frequency claims based on the CY 2021 hospital claims data
- The proposed assignment of CPT code 68841 to APC 5694 is inappropriate since the geometric mean cost for CPT code 68841 (\$2,227.06) is 6 times greater than the geometric mean for APC 5694 (\$341.39)



RECOMMENDATIONS AND RATIONALE

- ***The Panel should recommend that CMS assign CPT code 68841 to APC 5503, with a status indicator of J1***
 - ✓ Clinical fit – as an extraocular procedure, the Extraocular, Repair, and Plastic Eye Procedure APC family is a good fit
 - ✓ Resource fit - within this APC family, the level 3 APC (5503) is the best fit given the geometric means (\$2,227.06 for CPT code 68841 and \$2,159.58 for APC 5503)
- Assignment to APC 5503 also promotes resource coherence across similar procedures
 - ✓ CPT codes 0699T (Injection, posterior chamber of eye; medication) and 66030 (Injection, anterior chamber of eye (separate procedure); medication) are other ocular procedures that deliver medication into the eye, with similar levels of time, equipment and supplies
 - ✓ CPT codes 0699T and 66030 are proposed to be assigned to APC 5491 (Level 1 Intraocular Procedures), which has a geometric mean of \$2,220.69 that is similar to the geometric mean for CPT code 66841 (\$2,227.06)
- Alternatively, given the \$2,227.06 geometric mean cost, the Panel could recommend assignment of CPT code 66841 to APC 1522 (New Technology – Level 22 (\$2001-\$2500))

