



Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Scan - Allow Tracer Codes Q9982 and Q9983 in the Fiscal Intermediary Shared System (FISS)

MLN Matters Number: MM11537

Related Change Request (CR) Number: 11537

Related CR Release Date: November 8, 2019

Effective Date: January 1, 2018

Related CR Transmittal Number: R2387OTN

Implementation Date: April 6, 2020

PROVIDER TYPES AFFECTED

This MLN Matters Article is for physicians, providers, and suppliers billing Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for positron emission tomography (PET) scans provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

PROVIDER ACTION NEEDED

CR 11537 updates Medicare's Fiscal Intermediary Shared System (FISS) system with the additional tracer healthcare common procedure coding system (HCPCS) codes Q9982 and Q9983. Currently, the system does not recognize HCPCS Q9982 and Q9983 as valid radiopharmaceutical tracer codes and claims are incorrectly returned to the provider as unprocessed or rejected. Please make sure your billing staffs are aware of these updates.

BACKGROUND

The National Coverage Determination (NCD) policy for PET scans recognizes HCPCS codes Q9982 and Q9983 as valid radiopharmaceutical tracer codes for specific body parts. FISS edits all incoming claims containing PET scans to ensure that a HCPCS code for one of the covered tracer codes is present with the same line item date of service. Validation for the correct PET scan and tracer combination is done by the MACs with local medical review policies.

Currently, FISS reason code (RC) 32440 does not recognize HCPCS Q9982 and Q9983 as valid radiopharmaceutical tracer codes and claims are incorrectly returned to the provider as unprocessed or rejected. CR 11537 corrects this situation and does not implement or change Medicare policy.

Note: HCPCS Q9982 and Q9983 are valid PET tracer codes effective July 1, 2016. If claims with service dates prior to January 1, 2018, are received using RC 32440, MACs shall override the reason code if it was assigned incorrectly.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The official instruction, CR11537, issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/2019Downloads/R2387OTN.pdf>.

If you have questions, your MACs may have more information. Find their website at <http://go.cms.gov/MAC-website-list>.

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Date of Change	Description
November 13, 2019	Initial article released.

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