



MEDICARE

Part A Intermediary
Part B Carrier
DME Regional Carrier

November 23, 2004

Michael Tymkiw
President, Primary Care Division
Medline Industries, Inc.
One Medline Place
Mundelein, IL 60060

Re: Caring Avant Gauze Sponges, Sterile (Models PRM21444, PRM251224)
Caring Avant Gauze Sponges, Non-Sterile (Models PRM25224, PRM25444)

Dear Mr. Tymkiw:

The SADMERC and the four Durable Medical Equipment Regional Carriers (DMERCs) have completed the HCPCS Coding Verification Review on November 22, 2004 for the above listed product(s) manufactured by your company. This review resulted in a consensus coding decision.

It is our determination that the meet(s) the characteristics and description of the HCPCS code for gauze dressings as defined in the DMERC Medical Policy for Surgical Dressings. Therefore, the correct Medicare billing code(s) for the product(s), depending on the size of the dressing, is/are

A6402 Gauze, non-impregnated, sterile, pad size 16 sq. in. or less, without adhesive border, each dressing for Models PRM21444, PRM251224.

A6216 Gauze, non-impregnated, non-sterile, pad size 16 sq. in. or less, without adhesive border, each dressing for Models PRM25224, PRM25444.

This HCPCS coding decision applies to the submitted product(s) as presented to and reviewed by the SADMERC and four DMERCs. Any modifications to this product(s) could change the HCPCS code and would need to be reviewed for coding verification. The assignment of a HCPCS code to this product should in no way be construed as an approval or endorsement of this product by SADMERC or Medicare, nor does it imply or guarantee claim reimbursement or coverage. For questions regarding claim coverage or reimbursement please contact your regional DMERC.

Palmetto GBA

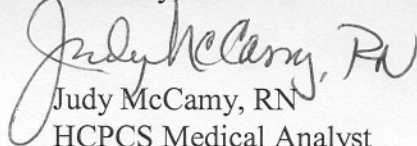
Statistical Analysis Durable Medical Equipment Regional Carrier
Post Office Box 100143 • Columbia, South Carolina • 29202-3143

A CMS Contracted Intermediary and Carrier

Should you disagree with this coding decision, a re-review of the product(s) can be initiated. The SADMERC will provide a re-review if the request is made within 45 days of the date of this letter and additional documentation is provided supporting the request. If a request for a re-review is made after 45 days, the request is treated as a new Coding Verification Review and a complete application must be submitted along with the additional documentation supporting the request.

If you have any questions regarding this coding decision, please contact me at the address below or by telephone at (803) 763-8707.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Judy McCamy, RN in cursive script.

Judy McCamy, RN
HCPCS Medical Analyst
SADMERC

cc: DMERCs