

CMS Roundup: New Osteoporosis Drug Covered by Medicare; Home Health Bundled Billing Updated

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) [Transmittals 26](#) and [358](#) provide detailed guidance for billing of Forteo, a newly covered osteoporosis drug. According to Eli Lilly, the drug's manufacturer, Forteo is a synthetic of parathyroid hormone that must be administered by subcutaneous injection once daily, and is recommended to be taken for up to 24 months.

For home health, Medicare coverage of osteoporosis drugs is limited to those administered by an agency nurse to (1) a female beneficiary (2) who is eligible for Medicare Part B and (3) has sustained a bone fracture that (4) a physician certifies was related to post-menopausal osteoporosis. Also, (5) the patient's physician must certify that the patient is unable to learn to self-administer the drug and (6) has no willing or able caregiver to administer the drug.

Osteoporosis drugs are bundled under the Home Health Prospective Payment System. However, the cost of the drug must be billed on a claim separately from home health services using bill type "34X" and revenue code "0636." Although [Transmittals 26](#) and [358](#) provide coverage information for osteoporosis drugs and billing instructions for both the drugs and skilled nursing visits, CMS did not address whether orders to administer daily injections for 24 months, as required for effective treatment with Forteo, would be considered to have a finite and predictable endpoint, as required to meet "intermittent nursing" criteria.

Quarterly Update

CMS also issued its quarterly update of the home health consolidated billing list of bundled medical supplies and therapy services. The update includes new medical supply codes for external male catheters, chest drainage supplies, and tracheostomy and laryngectomy supplies. New therapy codes are limited to those for therapy services for wound care.

The complete list of bundled supplies and services, effective November 1, is posted on CMS's website at www.cms.hhs.gov/providers/happs (scroll down to the last topic under "Prospective Payment System Coding and Billing").