



VEI

Indianapolis Medical Management

7330 Shadeland Station, Ste 200
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INSIGHT❖ MEDICARE HOLDING
OF CLAIMS FOR
SERVICES PAID
UNDER THE 2010
MPFS❖ BUSINESS
ASSOCIATE
AGREEMENT❖ SPECIALTY DRUG
ACQUISITION
PROTOCOL FOR
SODIUM
HYALURONATE
PREPARATIONS**MEDICARE HOLDING OF CLAIMS FOR SERVICES PAID UNDER THE 2010 MEDICARE PHYSICIAN FEE SCHEDULE (MPFS)**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is working with Congress, health care providers, and the beneficiary community to avoid disruption in the delivery of health care services and payment of claims for physicians, nonphysician practitioners, and other providers of services paid under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS). As you are aware, the Temporary Extension Act of 2010, enacted on March 2, 2010, extended the zero percent (0%) update to the 2010 MPFS through March 31, 2010.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services believes Congress is working to avert the negative update that will take effect April 1. Consequently, CMS has instructed its contractors to hold claims containing services paid under the MPFS (including anesthesia services) for the first 10 business days of April. This hold will only affect claims with dates of service April 1, 2010, and forward. In addition, the hold should have minimum impact on provider cash flow because, under the current law, clean electronic claims are not paid any sooner than 14 calendar days (29 for paper claims) after the date of receipt. Be on the alert for more information about the 2010 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule update.

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BUSINESS ASSOCIATE AGREEMENT

Due to the new HITECH updates, BAs (Business Associates) must comply with the HIPAA Security Rule and the use and disclosure provisions of the privacy rule and enter into an updated agreement with their covered entities. This is a reminder to review your files and ensure your Business Associate Agreements are current.

If your office is an employed practice of Community Health Network, Business Associate Agreements (BAAs) are obtained and maintained by the Compliance Department. If you are a managed or consulting client you will need to update your BAAs. Please be sure you have a signed contract on file for all vendors using/disclosing PHI.

If you have any questions please consult your clinical/regulatory consultant.

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SPECIALTY DRUG ACQUISITION PROTOCOL FOR SODIUM HYALURONATE PREPARATIONS (HYALGAN® AND SUPARTZ®)**Program overview**

UnitedHealthcare will require that all network physicians billing for the administration of Supartz and Hyalgan to UnitedHealthcare commercial members use Prescription Solutions as the specialty pharmacy vendor to obtain these medications. UnitedHealthcare will no longer reimburse physicians who purchase Supartz and/or Hyalgan directly and then bill UnitedHealthcare. **This protocol is effective April 1, 2010.** This is outlined in the Supartz and Hyalgan protocol in the



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T**SPECIALTY DRUG ACQUISITION PROTOCOL FOR SODIUM HYALURONATE...(CONTINUED)**

UnitedHealthcare Physician, Health Care Professional, Facility and Ancillary Provider 2010 Administrative Guide.

Key messages

- You must acquire Supartz and Hyalgan from Prescription Solutions instead of purchasing these medications through a manufacturer or wholesaler and billing UnitedHealthcare directly, except as otherwise authorized by UnitedHealthcare.
- You may continue to maintain your own stock and bill UnitedHealthcare directly (also referred to as "buy and bill") for Euflexxa®, Orthovisc®, Synvisc® and Synvisc-One®. Acquisition options for these high value products are unchanged. Our objective is to optimize quality and affordability for our members while maintaining clinical options for you.
- The Supartz and Hyalgan Protocol can be found on pages 63-64 of the Physician, Health Care Professional, Facility and Ancillary Provider 2010 Administrative Guide available at:

<https://www.unitedhealthcareonline.com>

After opening, follow these links:

> *Tools and Resources* > *Policies and Protocols* > *Protocols*

Method

To obtain Hyalgan and Supartz through Prescription Solutions please follow these steps:

1. Obtain the prescription fax form for UnitedHealthcare members at:

<https://www.unitedhealthcareonline.com>

After opening, follow these links:

> *Tools & Resources* > *Policies & Protocols* > *Protocols* > *Fax Form:Hyaluronic Acid (Prescription Solutions)*

Or

Contact Prescription Solutions toll-free at 888-739-5820

2. Complete the form and fax to Prescription Solutions at 800-853-3844. On the form, you will designate the date the medication is needed to administer to your patient. Prescription Solutions will fax back confirmation that the request was received. Contact Prescription Solutions to check the status of your order.
3. Continue to bill UnitedHealthcare directly, as you do currently, for the administration of Supartz and/or Hyalgan.

Additional information and FAQs

The protocol applies only to UnitedHealthcare commercial members. It does not apply to members in commercial benefit plans insured or administered by Oxford, PacifiCare, Mid-Atlantic Health Plan (MAMSI), Neighborhood Health Partnership or our other affiliated companies. The protocol does not apply to members in Medicare benefit

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SPECIALTY DRUG ACQUISITION PROTOCOL FOR SODIUM HYALURONATE...(CONTINUED)

plans administered by SecureHorizons® and Medicare Advantage or Medicaid benefit plans administered by AmeriChoice®. This protocol does not apply to members enrolled in products jointly offered by UnitedHealthcare and Harvard Pilgrim Health Care or benefit plans issued to the State of New York Empire Plan members.

Q1: What is the affect to the member?

A1: These changes will minimally affect members. If you choose to use Supartz or Hyalgan, the product must be obtained from Prescription Solutions and will not be available at the time of the patient's first visit. The patient/our member will need to return for the administration once you procure the product from Prescription Solutions. If you choose to use Euflexxa, Orthovisc, Synvisc or Synvisc-One, there will be no change for the member.

Q2: What is the affect to your office?

A2: There should not be any affect to physicians who elect to use Euflexxa, Orthovisc, Synvisc or Synvisc-One, since acquisition options for these products are unchanged. Physicians prescribing Supartz or Hyalgan will need to obtain these products from Prescription Solutions. The specialty pharmacy will dispense medication to the physician office and bill UnitedHealthcare for the medication. You can only bill UnitedHealthcare for the administration of the medication.

The claims submission process will not change. The only change for Hyalgan and Supartz is that you will submit a claim only for the injection cost and/or office visit. Prescription Solutions will submit the claim for the medication cost.

Q3: Why is UnitedHealthcare requiring use of Prescription Solutions for the acquisition of Supartz and Hyalgan?

A3: UnitedHealthcare has a unique integrated approach to managing the cost of specialty medications on the medical and pharmacy benefits. We apply administrative and clinical care protocols and contracting/reimbursement methodologies with our specialty providers where appropriate, so physicians and members receive consistent quality care and savings opportunities for medical and pharmacy benefit medications. This strategy optimizes quality and affordability for our members and maintains clinical options for physicians.

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Some Health Observance Dates for April

- National Cancer Control Month**
- National Folic Acid Awareness Week, 4th - 10th**
- World Health Day, 7th**
- 2010 March for Babies, 24th - 25th**

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