

May 2010 Edition

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"ABN" – Advanced Beneficiary Notice of Non-coverage

An Advanced Beneficiary Notice ("ABN") is a form provided to Medicare beneficiaries prior to providing a normally covered service or item that does not meet Medicare's coverage criteria guidelines or an item or service that is statutorily excluded and does not meet the definition of a Medicare benefit. An ABN has three main functions:



1. It provides written notice of non-coverage, thus informing the beneficiary that Medicare may not pay for an item or service.
2. Allows the beneficiary to make an informed decision whether to receive the item or service, thus notifying the beneficiary of financial liability.
3. Protects the supplier from incurring the liability for the item or service.

Important Facts about ABN's:

- ✓ ABN's must be completed and delivered to the beneficiary or his/her representative **prior** to providing the service or item in question.

Advanced Beneficiary Notice ...continued

- ✓ The ABN must be verbally reviewed with the beneficiary or his/her representative and any questions raised during the presentation must be answered before the ABN is signed.
- ✓ Wording on the ABN must be specific as to the reason for the non-coverage.
- ✓ Suppliers are required to retain the original ABN on file.
- ✓ ABN's are only valid for 1 year.
- ✓ You do **not** need to list exact amounts on the ABN for the items or services that are not likely to be paid but rather to list the reasonable "Estimated Cost".

For ABN instructions and the most current form please visit:

http://www.cms.gov/BNI/02_ABN.asp.

How well do you know your Reimbursement Partners?

Behind the Curtain: Introducing Mandi Lesperance

Mandi came to ARL in January 2007 with an impressive background in DME billing and collections. Early on Mandi was able to demonstrate her talents at ARL by becoming a team member assigned to a multi-million dollar DME Accounts Receivable project. The project was highly successful and the team exceeded monthly cash goals throughout the length of the project.



Mandi's ability to quickly grasp new concepts was evident as she became proficient with billing and collections for home infusion. Mandi is very versatile and has been able to manage a variety of assignments at ARL. She has a "lot of confidence" in her work and attributes this to the great mentors she has met while working here. Mandi is a true "team player" who is happy to help anyone that needs her assistance.

Some interesting things that colleagues and clients may not know about Mandi is that she studied electronic robotics and telecommunications; has received a certificate in Computer Networking and can build and take apart computers. Her dog named "Coco" makes her "smile". She enjoys camping in Maine and motorcycling with her Dad.

Of utmost importance to Mandi is her family. She is especially fond and proud of her sister who left the family home to become a Sergeant in the Army and was deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq for two years. It was a very difficult time for the entire family and they are so glad to have her back safely. Mandi will celebrate the Memorial Day weekend with her family and will honor those serving in the military.

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Quote of the Month

"If you can imagine it, you can achieve it; if you can dream it you can become it."

– William Arthur Ward

Tips and Tricks

HCPCS code A9270

A9270 is a HCPCS code for a non-covered item or service and should **not** be used to **bill for denial** of home infusion items or services.

A9270 **can only** be used if there is no specific HCPCS code for a **non-covered item or service** and there is no appropriate NOC code available.

Since many home infusion items and/services are typically non-covered by Medicare, many suppliers use A9270 to obtain a "good" denial from Medicare so that the secondary payer can be billed for payment. Per Medicare guidelines, if there is a specific HCPCS for

an item or service, then that specific HCPCS should be used. If a denial from Medicare is expected, then the appropriate modifier, GY, GA or GZ should be added to the code. If there is no specific HCPCS code to describe the item, then code A9270 is acceptable.

Keeping you "In the Loop": An Update from Mediware's Monthly Newsletter



As part of our integration activities, we want to keep you *In the Loop* on the activities of our peers and colleagues at Mediware. Email Laura Booth (laura.booth@mediware.com) if you would like to be put on the distribution list.

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