

Local Coverage Article: Hydration Services (A54635)

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Contractor Information

Contractor Name	Contract Type	Contract Number	Jurisdiction	State(s)
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	A and B MAC	01111 - MAC A	J - E	California - Entire State
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	A and B MAC	01112 - MAC B	J - E	California - Northern
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	A and B MAC	01182 - MAC B	J - E	California - Southern American Samoa
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	A and B MAC	01211 - MAC A	J - E	Guam Hawaii Northern Mariana Islands American Samoa
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	A and B MAC	01212 - MAC B	J - E	Guam Hawaii Northern Mariana Islands
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	A and B MAC	01311 - MAC A	J - E	Nevada
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	A and B MAC	01312 - MAC B	J - E	Nevada American Samoa California - Entire State
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	A and B MAC	01911 - MAC A	J - E	Guam Hawaii Nevada Northern Mariana Islands

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Article Information

General Information

Article ID
A54635

Original Article Effective Date
10/01/2015

Article Title
Hydration Services

Revision Effective Date
01/20/2017

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Revision Ending Date
N/A

Retirement Date
N/A

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Article Guidance

Article Text:

Noridian Medical Review (MR) has observed errors in billing for intravenous (IV) hydration services. Per the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) manual, codes 96360 and 96361 are intended to report a hydration IV infusion to consist of a pre-packaged fluid and electrolytes only. The codes are not used to report infusion of drugs or other substances. Hydration that is integral to the performance of a surgical procedure or transfusion or to establish an initial and underlying IV flow for a diagnostic or therapeutic infusion is not separately billable (e.g. IV fluids administered with preoperatively or conjunctively with IV meds). A physician or qualified non-physician practitioner order for hydration is required to evidence that services are reasonable and necessary.

Medical Documentation Required

Necessity for administration of hydration should be supported within medical documentation. Routine administration of IV fluids, pre/post operatively while the patient is NPO for example, without documentation supporting signs and/or symptoms including those of dehydration or fluid loss is not supported as medically necessary. Medical necessity is supported in the evaluation performed by the provider (usually on the same day) and involves the clinical assessment of the patient. Documentation of the assessment should describe symptoms warranting hydration, such as those associated with dehydration, the inability to ingest fluids, abnormal fluid losses, abnormal vital signs, and/or abnormal laboratory studies, such as an elevated BUN, creatinine, glucose or lactic acid. Nausea itself does not necessarily indicate fluid volume depletion nor support necessity of fluid repletion.

It is important to distinguish the medical necessity of hydration from the use of fluid administration intended only to initiate flow or to keep the vein open. When the sole purpose of the IV fluid administration is to establish and/or maintain vascular access or patency of the IV line, the service is neither diagnostic nor therapeutic and must not be separately reported. To qualify as medically necessary hydration, the rate of infusion should support performance of this service for rapid replenishment. Maintenance IV therapy replaces normal sensible and insensible fluid losses, not losses associated with pathological conditions. Although some conditions may warrant intravenous rehydration, if documentation supports the same benefit could be achieved by oral hydration, IV hydration would not be considered reasonable and necessary.

Sources

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Coding Information

Bill Type Codes:

Contractors may specify Bill Types to help providers identify those Bill Types typically used to report this service. Absence of a Bill Type does not guarantee that the article does not apply to that Bill Type. Complete absence of all Bill Types indicates that coverage is not influenced by Bill Type and the article should be assumed to apply equally to all claims.

Bill Type Code Bill Type Description

999x Not Applicable

Revenue Codes:

Contractors may specify Revenue Codes to help providers identify those Revenue Codes typically used to report this service. In most instances Revenue Codes are purely advisory. Unless specified in the article, services reported under other Revenue Codes are equally subject to this coverage determination. Complete absence of all Revenue Codes indicates that coverage is not influenced by Revenue Code and the article should be assumed to apply equally to all Revenue Codes.

N/A

CPT/HCPCS Codes**Group 1 Paragraph:** N/A**Group 1 Codes:****Group 1 CPT/HCPCS Code****Group 1 CPT/HCPCS Code Description**

96360	INTRAVENOUS INFUSION, HYDRATION; INITIAL, 31 MINUTES TO 1 HOUR
96361	INTRAVENOUS INFUSION, HYDRATION; EACH ADDITIONAL HOUR (LIST SEPARATELY IN ADDITION TO CODE FOR PRIMARY PROCEDURE)

ICD-10 Codes that are Covered N/A**ICD-10 Codes that are Not Covered** N/A[Back to Top](#)

Revision History Information

Revision History Date	Revision History Number	Revision History Explanation
01/20/2017	R1	JEA and JEB article A54635 updated to clarify intravenous hydration services must be ordered by a physician or non-physician practitioner and the reasonable and necessary criteria for intravenous hydration services. JE Part A (JEA) Local Coverage article A54634 is being combined into the updated JF Part B (JEB) article A54635. Both JEA and JEB contract numbers will have the same final MCD article number A54635.

[Back to Top](#) **Related Local Coverage Document(s)** N/A**Related National Coverage Document(s)** N/A**Statutory Requirements URL(s)** N/A**Rules and Regulations URL(s)** N/A**CMS Manual Explanations URL(s)** N/A**Other URL(s)** N/A**Public Version(s)** Updated on 03/16/2017 with effective dates 01/20/2017 - N/A [Updated on 08/27/2015 with effective dates 10/01/2015 - N/A](#) [Back to Top](#)

Keywords

- 96360

- 96361
- Intravenous
- Hydration
- Infusion
- Dehydration
- Fluid loss
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