



# STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR  
PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
CHARLES J. KROGMEIER, DIRECTOR

## INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO. 834

**DATE:** September 29, 2009

**TO:** Iowa Medicaid Physician, Pharmacy, Medical Supply and Nursing Home Providers

**ISSUED BY:** Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise

**RE:** Diabetic Test Strips

**EFFECTIVE:** November 1, 2009

### Nursing Home Place of Service:

Informational Letter 807 dated June 10, 2009 advised of a policy change regarding diabetic test strips that requires prior authorization for nonpreferred products. Additional review of the special needs of Medicaid members in nursing homes revealed that approval for nonpreferred test strips is appropriate. It is more efficient for both providers and the Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME) to allow reimbursement without utilizing the regular prior authorization process. Accordingly, programming changes have been implemented to the Medicaid claims payment system effective **September 1, 2009** to allow reimbursement for nonpreferred diabetic test strips supplied to Medicaid members in nursing homes, place of service 32.

### Billing:

The claims for nonpreferred test strips must be submitted in the CMS 1500 format using HCPCS A4253. Pharmacy claims for Medicaid members in nursing homes who do use the preferred test strips may continue to be submitted through the pharmacy POS billing system.

### Fee Adjustment:

The Medicaid fee for all diabetic test strips billed with A4253 on the CMS 1500 claim form is being adjusted to \$32.25 per unit of 50 for dates of service on or after **November 1, 2009**.

### Prior Approval:

Medicaid members who do not reside in nursing homes still require prior approval for nonpreferred test strips. The Request for Prior Authorization, form 470-0829, should be faxed to the IME Medical Services Prior Authorization Unit at 515-725-1356.

If you have any questions, please contact the IME Provider Services, 1-800-338-7909, locally 515-725-1004 or by e-mail at [imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us)