

TITLE: Use of the *JW* Modifier for Drug Wastage

POLICY/PURPOSE: This policy provides instructions on when to use the *JW* modifier and how to report discarded drugs and biologicals (“Drugs”) on a Medicare Part B claim.

When a physician or practitioner must discard the remainder of a single-use vial or other single-use package after administering a dose of the Drug to a Medicare patient, Medicare Part B will pay for the amount of Drug discarded as well as the dose administered, up to the amount indicated on the vial or package label.

Effective January 1, 2017, physicians and practitioners are required to report the *JW* modifier (drug amount discarded/not administered to any patient) on Part B claims for discarded Drugs. Also, physicians and practitioners must document the amount of discarded Drugs in a Medicare patient’s medical record.

DEFINITIONS:

Single-Dose or Single-Use Vial – A single-dose or single-use vial is a vial of liquid medication intended for parenteral administration (injection or infusion) in a single patient for a single case, procedure, injection. Single-dose or single-use vials are labeled as such by the manufacturer and typically lack an antimicrobial preservative and thus are at greater risk of becoming contaminated and serve as a source of infection when used inappropriately, i.e., saved to be used on another patient for any reason.

Multi-Dose Medication Vial (MDV) is intended for multiple uses because it contains antimicrobial preservatives. Only MDVs clearly labeled by the manufacturer for multiple dose use can be used more than once.

PROCEDURE:

1. Documentation

Document the amount of Drug administered as well as the amount discarded in the patient’s medical record. If the Drug is administered via multiple sites, document the units administered in each site along with the total amount discarded.

Example:

of units injected: 155

Unavoidable wastage: 45units

Total units billed: 200

15 units were injected into the (R) Occipitalis muscle with 2 separate injection sites.
15 units were injected into the (L) Trapezius with 3 separate injection sites.
15 units were injected into the (R) Trapezius with 3 separate injection sites.
15 units were injected into the (L) Occipitalis with 2 separate injection sites.
40 units were injected into the (L) splenius capitis with 3 separate injection sites
20 units were injected into the (R) splenius capitis with 3 separate injection sites
20 units were injected into the (R) and (L) temporalis with 3 separate injection sites
10 units were injected into the Frontalis
2.5 units were injected into the corrugators bilaterally
2.5 units were injected into the proceus

2. Claim Submission

- A. Bill the units administered on a single claim detail line without the *JW* modifier. Adjust the units of service accordingly.
- B. Bill the amount discarded (wastage) on a separate claim detail line with the *JW* modifier. Adjust the units of service for the amount discarded.

Example 1: A single use vial is labeled to contain 100mg/4mL. The procedure code's long descriptor indicates one (1) billing unit represents 10mg. 90mg are administered to the patient and 10mg are discarded. The 90mg administered is billed as nine (9) units on one line, while the discarded 10mg are billed as one (1) unit on another line with the *JW* modifier.

3. Exceptions

- A. Do not use the *JW* modifier when the billing unit is equal to or greater than the total actual dose administered.

Example 1: One billing unit for a drug is equal to 10mg of the drug in a single-use vial. A 7mg dose is administered to a patient while 3mg of the remaining drug is

discarded. The 7mg dose is billed using one billing unit that represents 10mg on a single line item. The single line item of one (1) unit would be processed for payment of the total 10mg of drug administered and discarded. Billing another unit on a separate line item with the JW modifier for the discarded 3mg of drug is not permitted because it would result in overpayment.

Example 2: One billing unit for Zoledronic Acid is equal to 1mg of the drug in a single use vial. A 3.5mg dose of the drug was administered to the patient using four units representing 4mg, while 0.50 mg of the drug was discarded. A single line item of four (4) units would be processed for payment of 4mg of drug administered and discarded. Billing another unit on a separate line item with the JW modifier for the discarded 0.50mg of drug is not permitted because it would result in overpayment.

B. Do not use the JW modifier for multi-dose Drug vials.

REFERENCES:

CDC. https://www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/providers/provider_faqs_singlevials.html
Last accessed 08/13/2020.

CMS. Medicare Claims Processing Manual. Internet-only Pub. No. 100-04, Ch.17, § 40.

UFJPI Ambulatory Services Policy # AMB-04-008

U.S. FDA. FDA-Approved Drugs. <https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/daf/index.cfm>.
Last accessed 08/13/2020.

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