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**THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE SHARED WITH ALL HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS AND
MANAGERIAL MEMBERS OF THE PHYSICIAN/SUPPLIER STAFF. BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE
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Use of HCPCS Code L5647 and L5652 – Clarification

In September, 2002, the Supplier Bulletin contained an article entitled “Billing Prosthetics and Orthotics – HCPCS Updates.” In that article, guidance was provided about the billing of code L5647 (addition to lower extremity, below knee, suction socket); however, some practitioners have questioned when it is appropriate to bill this code in light of the new socket insert codes. Others have asked if this code is appropriate to bill with the new locking and non-locking liner codes (K0556 – K0559) and code L5671 (addition to lower extremity, below knee/above knee suspension locking mechanism [shuttle, lanyard or equal], excludes socket insert). The following information serves as clarification of this issue.

Code L5647 describes a type of suspension system and is intended for use with sockets that incorporate a suction valve in their design. The parallel code for above knee prostheses is code L5652 (addition to lower extremity, suction suspension, above knee or knee disarticulation socket). The reimbursement for codes L5647 and L5652, takes into account the time and labor to incorporate this suction valve into the socket suspension system.

Some practitioners have asked if it is appropriate to bill codes L5647/L5652 with code L5671. No, this is inappropriate since code L5671 was created specifically to address suspension sockets using mechanical locking mechanisms, not as an “add on” for suction suspension. In addition, L5647 and L5652 are not the appropriate codes to use for gel liners. Although a gel liner “sucks on” to the residual limb, this is not the suction valve design intended for be used with code L5647. The appropriate gel liner code should be used (K0556 – K0559).

Reference: Coding Request Clarification from Veteran’s Administration
Classification: LPET

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