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**Contractor Comment:** Thank you for attending the NHIC, Corp. Vermont Interactive Fair on September 18, 2008. Below are the questions that needed clarification or further research. Please note that the questions may have been edited to allow for the greatest dissemination of information to the widest audience.

**Question 1.** Do we need an advanced beneficiary notice (ABN) for a well patient for tuberculosis (TB) testing?

**Answer 1.** Vaccinations or inoculations are excluded as immunizations unless they are directly related to the treatment of an injury or direct exposure to a disease or condition. In the absence of injury or direct exposure, preventive immunization (vaccination or inoculation) against such diseases is not covered. Bacillus Calmette-Guerin vaccine (BCG) for tuberculosis, live, for percutaneous use (CPT 90585) billed with Tuberculosis-BCG (ICD-9 V03.2) will deny as “routine services not allowed.” An ABN is not required for routine vaccinations.

**Question 2.** Can modifier 25 be applied to an evaluation and management service when performing a visual field examination (CPT 92083) on the same day?

**Answer 2.** All procedures on the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule are assigned a global period of 000, 010, 090, XXX, YYY, or ZZZ. The global concept does not apply to XXX procedures. CPT code 92083 has a XXX indicator on the Medicare physician fee schedule database. With many “XXX” procedures, the physician may perform a significant and separately identifiable E/M service on the same day of service which may be reported by appending modifier 25 to the E/M code. The E/M service may be related to the same diagnosis necessitating performance of the “XXX” procedure but cannot include any work inherent in the “XXX” procedure, supervision of others performing the “XXX” procedure, or time for interpreting the result of the “XXX” procedure. Yes, applying modifier 25 to a significant, separately identifiable E/M service when performed on the same date of service as an “XXX” procedure such as CPT 92083 is appropriate.

**Question 3.** Can a physical therapist perform strapping of an unna boot (CPT 29580)?

**Answer 3.** Physical therapy services are those services provided within the scope of practice of physical therapists and necessary for the diagnosis and treatment of impairments, functional limitations, disabilities, or changes in physical function and health status. NHIC does not consider CPT 29580 to be within the scope of practice of a physical therapist.

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**NHIC, Corp.**

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