

Special Bulletin

For professional and facility providers

November 11, 2024

Reminder: For Drug Wastage Claims, Use Modifiers JW and JZ — It's Required!

Highmark follows industry standards — consistent with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approach — requiring the use of the drug wastage modifiers JW and JZ.

We previously communicated this coding requirement on **Jan. 1, 2023**, when the [Reimbursement Policy \(RP\)-003 Convenience Kits, Drug and Biological Wastage](#) was updated, and again on **June 28, 2024**, when the following Special Bulletin was published: [Highmark Will Implement a Prepayment Edit for Required Use of Drug Wastage Modifiers: JW And JZ](#).

Drug wastage modifiers should be present on all applicable claims, as this policy noted. These modifiers are as follows:

- **JW** – Drug / biological amount discarded / not administered to any patient.
- **JZ** – Zero drug amount discarded / not administered to any patient.

Avoid Having Your Claims Rejected – Use the Correct Modifiers

Effective **July 28, 2024**, Highmark is requiring the appropriate modifier be appended to claims billed for drug wastage and enforce this requirement through a pre-payment edit.

*If the appropriate modifier is **not** present, **the claim will reject** indicating the code wasn't submitted with the required modifier.* Avoid this scenario by including the correct modifiers.

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