

Special Bulletin

For professional and facility providers

June 28, 2024

Highmark Will Implement a Prepayment Edit for Required Use of Drug Wastage Modifiers: JW And JZ

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. 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.

Effective July 28, 2024, Highmark will require the appropriate modifier be appended to claims billed for drug wastage and enforce this requirement through a prepayment edit. If the appropriate modifier is not present, the claim will reject, indicating the code wasn't submitted with the required modifier.

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