



## **Durable Medical Equipment Coding Standards Update**

We are taking additional steps to more closely align our claims payment policies with current industry and national correct coding standards. Delaware Physicians Care will implement modifications to our Durable Medical Equipment (DME) and Orthotic and Prosthetic claims payment policies to reflect nationally and regionally accepted standards including:

- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) national and regional coverage decisions used to issue Local Coverage Decisions (LCD), including policies through the Durable Medical Equipment Regional Administrative Contractors (DME MAC) and the National Coverage Determinations Manual (NCD)
- Durable Medical Equipment Regional carriers (DMERC) Manual
- Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) definitions

CMS coverage policies can be accessed at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/home/medicare.asp>.

It is important to note that we will follow CMS requirements on the use of modifiers, including those that indicate whether a DME item is new or used at the time an inexpensive or routinely purchased item is purchased. Modifiers NU (New DME) or UE (Used DME) are required to be appended to these items. When these modifiers are not appended, we will reimburse the item at the value of used equipment. When these items are received without modifiers NU, UE, one of the rental modifiers (KR, NR, RR, LL), or a repair modifier (MS), then we will append modifier UE.

This implementation will become effective on February 23, 2010.