

JUNE 24, 2026

PROVIDER ALERT: Modifier JW (Discarded Drug) and Modifier JZ (No Discard) Reporting

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 28, 2026

APPLIES TO: Professional Claims and Ambulatory Surgical Centers

As MedStar Family Choice District of Columbia (MFC-DC) continues its partnership with Payment Integrity partner, Advanced Medical Pricing Solutions (AMPS), we continue our prospective (pre-payment) reviews to include additional edits based on guidance from the District of Columbia Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Coverage Policies

The following policies will be effective for claims received on or after July 28th, 2026

To promote correct reporting of HCPCS modifiers JW (Discarded Drug) and JZ (No Discard) for separately payable drugs from single-dose containers or single-use packages. MedStar Family Choice will require correct utilization of Modifiers JW and JZ to ensure billing accuracy and reduce claim submission errors when reporting discarded drug amounts or confirming that no drug amount was discarded.

Modifier JW (Discarded Drug)

This modifier is utilized when a separately payable drug is supplied from a single-dose container or single-use package and a portion must be discarded. The amount of the drug administered to the patient should be billed on one line and the amount of the drug discarded should be billed on a separate claim line with the modifier JW appended.

When more than one vial is administered with different National Drug Codes (NDCs), each NDC used should be reported on a separate claim line along with the appropriate units given from each vial. An additional line is then added to indicate the discarded units with modifier JW. The JW modifier is only applicable to the amount of the drug discarded and not the amount administered.

Modifier JZ (No Discard)

Use modifier JZ on a claim line for a separately payable drug from a single-dose container or single-use package when no amount is discarded. When JZ applies, the claim should be billed on a single line for the full administered amount with the modifier JZ appended.

For questions concerning this Provider Alert, please contact the MedStar Family Choice District of Columbia Provider Customer Service Department, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at **800-261-3371** or by email: mfcdc-providerrelations@medstar.net