



## New HCPCS Codes for Intermittent Catheters, Effective January 1, 2026

### Background

Intermittent catheters (ICs) are covered by Medicare under the “prosthetic devices” benefit category which “replace all or part of an internal body organ”<sup>1</sup>. Catheter users (for example, individuals with Spina Bifida, benign prostate hyperplasia, bladder cancer, diabetes, spinal cord injury, Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson’s Disease) depend on intermittent catheters for bladder emptying and require access to quality catheters with innovative features like hydrophilic coating technology. Currently, more than 1300 intermittent catheter products are described by only three HCPCS codes with little to no product differentiation.

### Action Requested prior to 1/1/2026

For a successful implementation of the new and revised IC HCPCS codes, we request that payers:

- Incorporate the new HCPCS codes and code descriptions into your system(s), and
- Assure reimbursement allows access to the hydrophilic technology (A4295, A4296 & A4297).

### The Change

On August 16, 2024, The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) [announced a decision](#) to modify two existing HCPCS codes and to create three new HCPCS codes to distinguish hydrophilic coating technology within the intermittent catheter product category. This decision not only recognizes the clinical benefits of hydrophilic coating technology but will also expand access and drive innovation.

The following chart compares the current and new HCPCS codes:

Current HCPCS Codes	New HCPCS Codes - Effective January 1, 2026
A4351 Intermittent urinary catheter; straight tip, with or without coating (teflon, silicone, silicone elastomer, or hydrophilic,etc.), each	<b>A4351</b> (revised) Intermittent urinary catheter; straight tip, with or without coating (teflon, silicone, silicone elastomer, etc.), each
	<b>A4295</b> (new) Intermittent urinary catheter; straight tip, hydrophilic, coating, each
A4352 Intermittent urinary catheter; coude (curved) tip, with or without coating (teflon, silicone, silicone elastomer, or hydrophilic,etc.), each	<b>A4352</b> (revised) Intermittent urinary catheter; coude (curved) tip, with or without coating (teflon, silicone, silicone elastomer,etc.), each
	<b>A4296</b> (new) Intermittent urinary catheter; coude (curved tip), hydrophilic, coating) each
A4353 Intermittent urinary catheter, with insertion supplies	<b>A4353</b> (unchanged) Intermittent urinary catheter, with insertion supplies
	<b>A4297</b> (new) Intermittent urinary catheter; hydrophilic coating, with insertion supplies

“It is crucial for all payors to timely adopt the new catheter codes and guarantee access to the hydrophilic technology, so patients don’t experience any disruptions to their healthcare needs. The importance of having the correct catheter for the individual’s particular medical and physical needs is key to successful urine management, bladder, health, and vital for quality of life.” explains Kate Lawrence, MSN, RN, CWOCN, the Public Policy and Advocacy Coordinator for Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nurses Society (WOCN®).

#### **Health Plan benefits for timely adoption of the new HCPCS codes and sustainable reimbursement**

- Ensure uninterrupted patient access to medically necessary hydrophilic coating technology.
- Enhance data visibility through refined HCPCS product categorization.
- Reduce financial and paperwork burden for members with health plans secondary to Medicare and/or other payors who timely adopt the new codes.
- Avoid claim processing disruptions and delays.

The industry strongly supports CMS’ decision to distinguish hydrophilic coating technology within the intermittent catheter HCPCS code category. For more information or details please contact AAHomecare (the national advocacy association representing DME providers).

1. Social Security Act § 1861(s)(8)