

Appendix A: Template Coding Clarification Letter

Date

**Medical Director
Address**

Dear Dr. _____

My name is _____ and I'm a licensed _____ practicing in your catchment area. As a _____ I often treat patients for chronic pain associated with osteoarthritis of the knee.

I practice conservative medicine proceeding from the less to more invasive/expensive treatments, based on the patient's condition. When treating knee pain through intra-articular injections, I have used steroids and viscosupplementation. However, based on the results of a recent randomized, controlled trial, I would like to add a homeopathic injection to this portion of the continuum of care. The drug, Traumeel/Zeel injection solution, is indicated for the treatment of inflammatory and degenerative conditions of the musculoskeletal system, such as arthrosis/osteoarthritis and/or rheumatic joint diseases, and for the relief of symptoms including pain, swelling, and joint stiffness. It has an excellent safety profile and showed statistically significant results¹. The cost of the Traumeel/Zeel injection solution is similar to steroids, both being far less expensive than viscosupplementation.

Approved homeopathic drugs are those with monographs listed in the Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia of the United States. The ingredients for Traumeel Injection Solution and Zeel Injection Solution are listed in the HPUS. This type of approval is recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for reimbursement purposes.

My questions involve correct coding and billing. There is currently not an existing J-code for homeopathic injectable solutions. An unlisted J-code that may be suitable is J3490, unclassified drugs. Is this the appropriate J-code for Traumeel/Zeel or you would like me to use another? If an unlisted code is required, I plan to bill electronically with the text "See attachment" in Item 19. The invoice for the drug would then be sent on paper with a cover letter linking it to the claim. Are these your preferred billing instructions?

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please call me at **(phone number)** or **(e-mail address)**. If I have not heard from you in two weeks, I will follow-up to discuss my request in further detail along with any questions you have.

Sincerely,

_____, MD

¹Lozada, Carlos et al. A Multi-Center Double-Blind, Randomized, Controlled Trial (db-RCT) to Evaluate the Effectiveness and Safety of Co-Administered Traumeel® (Tr14) and Zeel® (Ze14) Intra-articular (IA) Injections Versus IA Placebo in Patients with Moderate-to-Severe Pain Associated with OA of the Knee. Arthritis & Rheumatology 2014; 66, Number 11:S1266