

# Vial size optimization (VSO) can prevent waste associated with infused and injectable agents

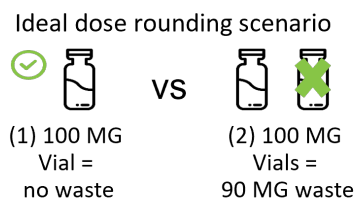
When a physician, hospital, or other provider or supplier must discard the remainder of a vial or combination of vials after administering a dose/quantity of a drug or biological to a Medicare patient, Humana provides payment for the discarded drug or biological amount as well as the dose administered, up to the amount of the drug or biological as indicated on the vial or package label. And as costs of expensive infusible and injectable drugs and biologics continue to rise, patients are also incurring higher out-of-pocket expense.

But one method that you can employ to minimize drug waste is vial size optimization (VSO). Vial size optimization occurs when a single vial or vial combination that generates the least amount of waste, (given available vial sizes) is used.

For example, a member needs 150 mg of a drug that comes in 50 mg and 200 mg increments. Drug Vial Optimization would occur by utilizing three 50mg vials instead of one 100 mg vial.

## Vial size optimization differs from dose rounding:

- Dose rounding is recommended by HOPA guidelines, where vial optimization is mandated CMS policy.
- Dose rounding modifies the calculated weight-based dose when there is an appropriate vial option within 10% of the original dose (i.e.: round to nearest vial size).
- Vial optimization does not modify the calculated dose; only utilizes vial combinations that produce the least amount of waste possible to achieve the calculated dose.



## Modifiers JW and JZ policy and claims processing update

Humana plans to implement new claims payment procedures to improve processing of claims submitted with modifiers JW and JZ.

Providers will be required to report the JW modifier and the JZ modifier in all outpatient settings. On a separate claim line the JW modifier should be applied to the amount of the drug or biological that is discarded. In the case there was no discarded amounts of drug, the JZ modifier should be used on a claim line for single-dose containers.

Reimbursement for units billed with modifier JW to indicate wastage is limited to no more than the amount that would be wasted, given the number of administered units billed and all commercially available package sizes, for the combination of packages that would contain the fewest units equal to or greater than the number of administered units billed.

These changes are supported by the AMA's and CMS's guidance on the use of modifier JW and JZ and Humana claims payment policy.

For more information about this updated policy and examples of payment scenarios, refer to Humana claims payment policies page and search for "JW."

[Click here](#) to view Humana's policy on medication waste.