

MLN Matters Number: MM3422

Related Change Request (CR) #: 3422

Related CR Release Date: August 27, 2004

Effective Date: January 1, 2005

Related CR Transmittal #: 283

Implementation Date: January 3, 2005

2005 Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Annual Update Reminder

Note: This article was revised to contain web addresses that conform to the new CMS web site and to show they are now MLN Matters articles. All other information remains the same.

Provider Types Affected

Physicians, providers, and suppliers

Provider Action Needed

This instruction is a reminder that the complete HCPCS file is updated and released annually by Medicare. The 2005 version of the HCPCS file contains existing, new, revised, and discontinued alpha-numeric codes for 2005. Your Medicare contractor will use the file for processing claims for services on or after January 1, 2005.

All Medicare physicians, providers, and suppliers: there is no longer a 90-day grace period for billing discontinued HCPCS codes as of January 1, 2005.

Background

Medicare providers submitting claims to Medicare contractors for Part B services use a HCPCS code to indicate the service that was provided. HCPCS consist of Level I codes, which are the American Medical Association's (AMA's) Current Physician Terminology Codes (CPT-4) and Level II codes which are alpha-numeric and maintained by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

The alpha-numeric index and the table of drugs will be posted to the CMS web site by the end of October. The CMS web site address for that posting will be <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/HCPCSReleaseCodeSets/ANHPCS/list.asp>.

There is no longer a 90-day grace period for discontinued codes in order to be compliant with HIPAA standards. To view further information regarding the

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elimination of this 90-day grace period, see the *MLN Matters* article MM3093, which may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM3093.pdf> on the CMS web site.

Implementation

The implementation date for this instruction is January 3, 2005.

Additional Information

For complete details, please see the official instruction issued to your fiscal intermediary regarding this change. That instruction may be viewed by going to <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/Downloads/R283CP.pdf> on the CMS web site.

From that Web page, look for CR3422 in the CR NUM column on the right, and click on the file for that CR. If you have any questions, please contact your carrier/intermediary at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS web site.

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