

Related Change Request (CR) #: 4086

MLN Matters Number: MM4086

Related CR Release Date: October 7, 2005

Related CR Transmittal #: 696

Effective Date: January 1, 2006

Implementation Date: January 3, 2006

2006 Annual Update of Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Codes for Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Consolidated Billing (CB)

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

Provider Types Affected

Physicians, suppliers, and providers billing Medicare carriers and Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs) for services supplied to Medicare patients in SNFs

Provider Action Needed



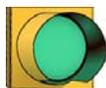
STOP – Impact to You

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 4086 regarding the annual update of HCPCS codes for SNF Consolidated Billing and how the updates affect edits in Medicare claims processing systems, especially the Common Working File (CWF).



CAUTION – What You Need to Know

CR4086 provides updates to HCPCS codes that will be used to revise CWF edits to allow carriers and FIs to make appropriate payments in accordance with the policy for SNF consolidated billing that is detailed in Chapter 6 (Section 110.4.1) for carriers, and Chapter 6 (Section 20.6) for FIs.



GO – What You Need to Do

Physicians, suppliers, and providers should review the new coding files that will be posted on the CMS web site.

Disclaimer

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Background

The Common Working File (CWF)

Medicare's claims processing systems currently have edits in place for claims received for beneficiaries in a Part A covered Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) stay as well as for beneficiaries in a non-covered stay. These edits allow only those services excluded from consolidated billing to be separately paid by the carrier and/or FI.

For physicians and providers billing carriers: By the first week of December 2005, new code files will be posted to http://www.cms.hhs.gov/SNFConsolidatedBilling/01_Overview.asp on the CMS website.

For those providers billing FIs: By the first week of December 2005, new Excel and PDF files will be posted to http://www.cms.hhs.gov/SNFConsolidatedBilling/01_Overview.asp on the CMS website.

Note: It is important and necessary for the provider community billing the FIs to view the "General Explanation of the Major Categories" bullet located under each Annual update bullet, at the http://www.cms.hhs.gov/SNFConsolidatedBilling/01_Overview.asp link, to understand the Major Categories, including additional exclusions not driven by HCPCS codes.

Implementation

The implementation date for the instruction is January 3, 2006.

Additional Information

For complete details, please see the official instruction issued to your carrier/intermediary regarding this change, which may be viewed at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R696CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

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 website.

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