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Implementation Date: April 3, 2006

Modification to QR Modifier Edit for Automatic Implantable Cardiac Defibrillator (ICD) Services

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

Providers who bill carriers or fiscal intermediaries (FIs) for ICD services rendered to Medicare beneficiaries.

Provider Action Needed



STOP – Impact to You

The QR modifier is not required to process claims with ICD-9-CM codes 996.04 (Mechanical complication of cardiac device, implant, and graft, due to automatic implantable cardiac defibrillator) or for V53.32 (Fitting and adjustment of other device, automatic implantable cardiac defibrillator) for ICD services with dates of service on or after April 1, 2005. The QR modifier should continue to be used on all claims for ICD device implants when the beneficiary is enrolled in a data collection system such as a registry.



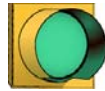
CAUTION – What You Need to Know

The QR modifier is required on claims for primary prevention ICD device implantations (QR signifies that data is being reported on the patient and data reporting is a requirement of primary prevention device insertion). However, claims submitted for replacement devices do not carry the patient's previous arrhythmic diagnoses; therefore, these claims look like claims for primary

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prevention clinical indications. CR4273, from which this article is taken, adds two new ICD-9-CM codes (addressing ICD replacement due to instrument recall or device complication) to the list of codes that do not require the use of the QR modifier for claims processing (effective on or after April 1, 2006, for claims with dates of service on and after April 1, 2005)



GO – What You Need to Do

Make sure that your billing staffs continue to bill ICD implantation and replacement services appropriately according to professional coding guidelines. If claims with dates of service on or after April 1, 2005, were inappropriately denied, they should be brought to the attention of the local Medicare contractor.

Background

The QR modifier identifies services that are being covered under a clinical study (e.g., patients enrolled in a registry), and effective January 27, 2005, is required as a condition for payment on claims for ICD services rendered in the primary prevention of cardiac arrest.

CR3604, Transmittal 497 (released March 8, 2005), provides guidance for the coverage of ICD services under newly expanded coverage. One of the requirements for covering the new ICD indications (effective January 27, 2005) is that the patient be enrolled in a data collection system as indicated by the presence of the QR modifier on the claim, which identifies services being covered under a clinical study.

A *MLN Matters* article on CR3604 is available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM3604.pdf> on the CMS website.

Again, the modifier is used to identify patients who meet the coverage requirement for any indication that is for the primary prevention of sudden cardiac arrest (i.e., no history of induced or spontaneous arrhythmias).

It is not required for ICD services rendered for the secondary prevention of cardiac arrest as documented by the secondary prevention diagnosis codes noted in the table below. (Note, however, that you can use the QR modifier for secondary prevention diagnoses if you deem it to be appropriate, i.e., in order to report the data to the data collection system, when this reporting applies).

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Two New Diagnosis Codes Added

Since CR3604 was published, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has become aware that there are other clinical situations for ICD services in which the diagnoses show neither primary nor secondary prevention of cardiac arrest. Such a situation could occur when the patient is having his/her ICD replaced, perhaps due to ICD recall, or to a device complication (such as the end of battery-life).

Since it would be incorrect to deny such claims because they lacked the QR modifier, in CR4273, CMS is adding two new ICD-9-CM diagnosis codes to the list of those that do not require it:

- **996.04, Mechanical complication of cardiac device, implant, and graft; due to automatic implantable cardiac defibrillator** Use this diagnosis code when the patient is having his/her ICD replaced due to a mechanical complication, as could occur due to ICD recall.
- **V53.32, Fitting and adjustment of other device; automatic implantable cardiac defibrillator** Use this diagnosis code when there is a fitting or an adjustment, including device removal or replacement; it would be used when the ICD reaches its natural end-of-battery life.

The table below displays the new list of diagnoses that do not require a QR modifier for ICD services in order to be paid (both those indicating the secondary prevention of cardiac arrest, and ICD replacement).

Diagnoses Not Requiring the QR Modifier	
ICD-9-CM Code	Secondary Prevention Diagnosis
427.1	Ventricular Tachycardia
427.41	Ventricular fibrillation
427.42	Ventricular flutter
427.5	Cardiac arrest
427.9	Cardiac dysrhythmia, unspecified
New "Replacement" Diagnoses	
996.04	Mechanical complication of cardiac device, implant, and graft, due to automatic implantable cardiac defibrillator
V53.32	Fitting and adjustment of other device, automatic implantable cardiac defibrillator

Remember: Carriers and FIs will adjust, as appropriate, claims brought to their attention (with dates for service on or after April 1, 2005), that were denied because the diagnosis code was 996.04 or V53.32, and lacked a QR modifier.

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Additional Information

More information about the use of the QR Modifier for Automatic Implantable Cardiac Defibrillator (ICD) Services is available in the official instruction (CR4723) issued to your carrier/intermediary. That instruction is available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R819CP.pdf> on the CMS website. Another good source for additional information is *MLN Matters* article MM3604, at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/mm3604.pdf> on the CMS website.

Finally, 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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