

MLN Matters Number: MM4308

Related Change Request (CR) #: 4308

Related CR Release Date: February 1, 2006

Effective Date: April 1, 2006

Related CR Transmittal #: R824CP

Implementation Date: April 3, 2006

Quarterly Update to Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) edits, Version 12.1, Effective April 1, 2006

Provider Types Affected

Physicians billing Medicare Carriers

Provider Action Needed

This is a reminder for physicians to note the quarterly updates to the coding initiatives. The next round of CCI edits will be effective on April 1, 2006.

Physicians may view the current CCI edits and the current Mutually Exclusive Code (MEC) edits at

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalCorrectCodInitEd/01_overview.asp#TopOfPage on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) website. The website will be updated with the Version 12.1 edits as soon as they are effective.

Background

The National Correct Coding Initiative developed by CMS helps promote national correct coding methodologies and controls improper coding. The coding policies developed are based on the following:

- Coding conventions defined in the American Medical Association's Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) manual;
- National and local policies and edits;
- Coding guidelines developed by national societies;
- Analysis of standard medical and surgical practice; and
- Review of current coding practice.

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The latest package of CCI edits, Version 12.1, is effective on April 1, 2006. This version will include all previous versions and updates from January 1, 1996, to the present and will be organized in two tables:

- Column 1/Column 2 Correct Coding Edits table; and
- MEC Edits table.

Additional Information

The CCI and MEC file formats will be maintained in the *Medicare Claims Processing Manual* (Publication 100-04), Chapter 23, Section 20.9, which can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Manuals/IOM/list.asp#TopOfPage> on the CMS website.

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