



Do you have your NPI? National Provider Identifiers (NPIs) will be required on claims sent on or after May 23, 2007. Every health care provider needs to get an NPI. Learn more about the NPI and how to apply for an NPI by visiting <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand/> on the CMS website.

MLN Matters Number: MM4374

Related Change Request (CR) #: 4374

Related CR Release Date: July 14, 2006

Effective Date: January 1, 2005

Related CR Transmittal #: R999CP

Implementation Date: October 2, 2006

Non-Physician Practitioner (NPP) Payment for Care Plan Oversight (CPO)

Note: This article was revised on July 17, 2006, to reflect a correction made to related CR4374. CR4374 was corrected to show, in one statement, that HCPCS code G0182 refers to hospice oversight services, not home health services. This article was revised to replace "home health" to "hospice" in the 4th bullet point on page 3. The CR release date, transmittal number and web address were also changed, but all other information remains the same.

Provider Types Affected

Non-Physician Practitioners (NPPs) and suppliers billing Medicare carriers for home health CPO services

Provider Action Needed



STOP – Impact to You

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 4374 which clarifies the policy associated with NPPs billing for physician home health care plan oversight (CPO).



CAUTION – What You Need to Know

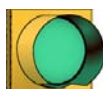
The manual revision in CR4374 effectuates a revision to the policy that the same provider that signs the plan of care does not have to be the same provider that bills for physician care plan oversight. Effective January 1, 2005, NPPs must meet

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certain conditions to be eligible for payment for home health care plan oversight services even though they may not sign the plan of care. This CR clarifies those conditions.

CR4374 clarifies the policy associated with NPPs billing for physician hospice CPO and clarifies the HCPCS codes for CPO. It temporarily waives the requirement to include the Home Health Agency (HHA) or hospice provider number on a CPO claim since there is currently no place on the HIPAA standard ASC X12N 837 professional format to specifically include the HHA or hospice number. CR4374 also states that the physician who bills CPO must be the same physician who signs the plan of care.



GO – What You Need to Do

See the *Background* section of this article for further details regarding these changes.

Background

Physician Care Plan Oversight (CPO) is paid under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS), and due to a provision in the *Medicare Claims Processing Manual* (Publication 100-04, Chapter 12, Section 180), Non-Physician Practitioners (NPPs) have been prohibited from billing for this service in a home health setting.

The current manual section (Section 180) provides that the physician who signs the plan of care for home health services must be the same person that bills for physician CPO. Since only a physician can sign the plan of care for home health services, NPPs have been unable to bill for physician home health CPO.

Under the Final Physician Fee Schedule Rule, published in the *Federal Register* on November 15, 2004, nurse practitioners (NPs), physician assistants (PAs), and clinical nurse specialists (CNSs), practicing within the scope of state law, may bill for CPO.

The intention of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), as outlined in later portions of the *Medicare Claims Processing Manual*, was to allow NPPs to bill for physician CPO within their state scope of practice. The current inconsistency in Section 180 will not allow NPPs to be paid for this service.

CR4374 revises the policy that states that the same provider that signs the plan of care does not have to be the same provider that bills for physician CPO.

In addition, the *Medicare Claims Processing Manual* (Publication 100-04, Chapter 11, Section 40.1.3.1) has been revised to clarify CPO billing requirements for beneficiaries who have elected the hospice benefit.

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Currently there is no place on the HIPAA standard ASC X12N 837 professional format to specifically include the HHA or hospice number required for a CPO claim. For this reason, the requirement to include the HHA or hospice provider number on a CPO claim is temporarily waived until a new version of this electronic standard format is adopted under HIPAA and includes a place to provide the HHA and hospice provider numbers for CPO claims.

For services furnished on or after January 1, 2005, your carrier will allow NPPs to bill for physician home health CPO even though they cannot 1) certify a patient for home health services and 2) sign the plan of care.

For beneficiaries who have elected the hospice benefit, physicians or NPPs who have been identified by a beneficiary to be his or her attending physician may submit claims for CPO.

Note: For physicians or NPs who are employed by a hospice agency, CPO is not separately payable.

CR4374 instructs your carrier to:

- Pay for physician home health CPO services (HCPCS code G0181) when billed by an NPP for dates of service on or after January 1, 2005;
- Pay for physician home health plan CPO services (HCPCS code G0181) no more than once per calendar month per patient;
- Pay for physician hospice CPO services (HCPCS code G0182 with GV modifier) when billed by a nurse practitioner for dates of service on or after January 1, 2005;
- Pay for physician hospice CPO services under HCPCS code G0182 no more than once per calendar month per patient;
- Re-open and adjust any erroneously denied claims with practitioner CPO services brought to their attention; and
- Not require the provider numbers of the home health agency or hospice for CPO claims effective for dates of service on or after January 1, 2005.

Implementation

The implementation date for CR4374 is October 2, 2006.

Additional Information

For complete details, please see the official instruction issued to your carrier regarding this change. That instruction may be viewed at

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<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R999CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your carrier at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/contacts/> on the CMS website.

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