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MLN Matters Number: MM5122

Related Change Request (CR) #: 5122

Related CR Release Date: July 7, 2006

Effective Date: January 1, 2006

Related CR Transmittal #: R997CP and R53BP

Implementation Date: August 7, 2006

Medicare Telehealth Services Update

Provider Types Affected

Providers who bill Medicare carriers and fiscal intermediaries (FIs) for telehealth services

Provider Action Needed



STOP – Impact to You

When billing for telehealth services provided on or after January 1, 2006, do not use current procedure terminology (CPT) codes 99261-99263 (hospital inpatient follow-up consultations) or 99271-99275 (confirmatory consultations). These codes no longer exist, and using them could impact your reimbursement.

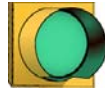


CAUTION – What You Need to Know

The American Medical Association has deleted CPT codes 99261 – 99263 (hospital inpatient follow-up consultations) and codes 99271 - 99275 (confirmatory consultations). Effective January 1, 2006, these CPT codes no longer exist and were removed from the physician fee schedule.

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GO – What You Need to Do

Make sure that your billing staffs are aware that CPT codes 99261-99263 and 99271-99275 are no longer usable for telehealth services.

Background

CR5122, from which this article is taken, is issued to alert you that, effective January 1, 2006, the AMA has deleted the following CPT codes:

- 99271 – 99275 (Confirmatory consultation); and
- 99261 – 99263 (Follow-up inpatient consultation).

Thus, the CPT codes that describe these services (hospital inpatient follow-up consultations – 99261 through 99263 and confirmatory consultations – 99271 through 99275) no longer exist.

In response, also effective January 1, 2006, CMS has removed confirmatory consultation and inpatient follow-up consultation from the list of Medicare telehealth services as referenced in the *Medicare Benefit Policy Manual* (Publication 100-02) and the *Medicare Claims Processing Manual* (Publication 100-04). The relevant sections of these Manuals (Publication 100-02, Chapter 15, Section 270.2 [List of Medicare Telehealth Services] and Publication 100-04 Chapter 12, Section 190.3 [List of Medicare Telehealth Services]) have been revised to reflect these policy changes.

As displayed in Table 1 below, office and other outpatient consultations and initial inpatient consultations are included in Medicare telehealth consultations as described by CPT codes 99241 through 99255. The table displays the current Medicare telehealth services and CPT and HCPCS codes.

Table 1: Current Medicare Telehealth Services and Associated CPT/HCPCS Codes

Service	CPT/HCPCS Codes
Consultations	99241 - 99255 as of January 1, 2006
Office or other outpatient visits	99201 - 99215
Individual psychotherapy	90804 - 90809
Pharmacologic management	90862
Psychiatric diagnostic interview examination	90801
End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) related services	G0308, G0309, G0311, G0312, G0314, G0315, G0317, and G0318
Individual Medical Nutrition Therapy	G0270, 97802, and 97803

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Additional Information

You can find more information about current Medicare telehealth services and the associated CPT/HCPCS codes in CR 5122, located at <http://cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R53BP.pdf> for the changes to Publication 100-02, Chapter 15, Section 270.2 (List of Medicare Telehealth Services) and at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R997CP.pdf> for the changes to Publication 100-04, Chapter 12, Section 190.3 (List of Medicare Telehealth Services).

If you have any questions, please contact your carrier/FI 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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