



News Flash – A new video explaining the Medicare Learning Network (MLN) and its benefits to Fee-For-Service healthcare providers is now available for download. This video, approximately seven minutes in length, is suitable for self instruction or for use during provider education events. National associations and organizations may want to consider posting this video to their websites to educate their membership on the products and services of the MLN. You can access the video at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNGenInfo/downloads/MLN_Long_Video.zip on the CMS website. Please note the large file size, [ZIP, 44.1MB], as download speeds will vary based on your internet connection.

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Visit Requirements Clarification for CR 5931 “Manualization of Payment for Outpatient ESRD Related Services”

Provider Types Affected

Physicians and other practitioners who bill Medicare contractors (carriers or Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MAC)) for providing outpatient end stage renal disease (ESRD) services to Medicare Beneficiaries.

Provider Action Needed

STOP – Impact to You

This special edition article clarifies visit requirements under the end stage renal disease (ESRD) monthly capitation payment (MCP).

CAUTION – What You Need to Know

Once a patient is on dialysis, the MCP physician (or practitioner) must furnish at least one face-to-face visit per month to the beneficiary in his/her office, outpatient hospital, or other outpatient setting, which can include the patient’s home as well as in the dialysis facility. The MCP physician (or practitioner) is not required to furnish the visit while the patient is dialyzing.

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GO – What You Need to Do

See the Background and Additional Information Sections of this article for further details regarding these changes.

Background

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is providing this special edition article to clarify visit requirements under the end stage renal disease (ESRD) monthly capitation payment (MCP) as described in CR 5931 “Manualization of Payment for Outpatient End Stage Renal Related (ESRD) Services.” An MLN Matters® article related to CR 5931 is available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5931.pdf> on the CMS website.

Once the ESRD beneficiary is on dialysis, the MCP physician (or practitioner) must furnish at least one face-to-face visit per month to the beneficiary. MCP visits may be furnished in a physician’s office, outpatient hospital or other outpatient setting including the patient’s home as well as in the dialysis facility. The MCP physician (or practitioner) is not required to furnish the visit while the patient is dialyzing.

For example, a comprehensive monthly visit could be furnished in a physician’s office; at a different time than the beneficiary’s dialysis session.

Additional Information

If you have any questions, please contact your carrier or A/B MAC 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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