



## Hospice Claims Edits for Certifying Physicians

Related CR Release Date: April 18, 2024

MLN Matters Number: MM13531

Effective Date: May 1, 2024

Related Change Request (CR) Number: [CR 13531](#)

Implementation Date: October 7, 2024

Related CR Transmittal Number: R12586CP

Related CR Title: Additional Implementation Edits on Hospice Claims for Hospice Certifying Physician Medicare Enrollment

### Affected Providers

---

- Hospices
- Physicians and other providers billing Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for hospice services they provide to Medicare patients

### Action Needed

---

Make sure your billing staff knows about these updates starting May 1, 2024:

- CMS will pay for hospice services if certifying physicians, including hospice physicians and hospice attending physicians, are enrolled in or opted-out of Medicare
- The hospice attending and certifying physicians will be subjected to ordering and referring denial edits

### Background

---

We're making sure certifying physicians, including hospice physicians and hospice attending physicians, are enrolled in or opted-out of Medicare before paying for their hospice services. This requirement is in the FY 2024 Hospice Payment Rate Update [Final Rule](#).

Starting May 1, 2024, we'll deny hospice claims if the certifying physician, including hospice physician and hospice attending physician, isn't on our PECOS hospice ordering and referring files. This addresses hospice program integrity and quality of care per Section 6405 of the [Affordable Care Act](#).

We're implementing these changes on October 7, 2024. We'll check the REF PHYS NPI field and the ATT PHYS NPI field on hospice claims to make sure the certifying physicians, including hospice physicians and hospice attending physicians, are enrolled in or opted-out of Medicare. Both physicians, if different, will be subjected to the ordering and referring denial edits for the initial certification period.

For subsequent certifications, if both physicians are listed, we'll check the REF PHYS NPI field for the certifying physician. You should enter the attending physician in the ATT PHYS NPI field and the certifying physician in the REF PHYS NPI field. If the patient doesn't have an attending physician, you should report the hospice certifying/recertifying physician in the ATT PHYS NPI field.

CR 13531 also makes the following changes for claims reporting to Section 20 of the Medicare Claims Processing Manual, [Chapter 11](#):

- **Attending Physician I.D.** – A hospice enters the name and NPI of the attending physician designated by the patient at the time of election as having the most significant role in the determination and delivery of the patient's medical care. The patient's designated attending physician could be an independent physician, hospice physician, a nurse practitioner, or physician assistant. If there is no attending physician listed, then you should report the hospice certifying/recertifying physician.
- **Other Physician I.D.** – A hospice enters the name and NPI of the hospice physician responsible for certifying/recertifying patient's terminal illness, with a life expectancy of 6 months or less, if the disease runs its normal course. You should complete both the attending physician and other physician fields unless the patient's designated attending physician is the same as the physician certifying/recertifying the terminal illness. When the attending physician is also the physician certifying/recertifying the terminal illness, then you should only populate the attending physician field, the other physician field isn't required.

## More Information

We issued CR 13531 to your MAC as the official instruction for this change.

For more information, [find your MAC's website](#).

## Document History

Date of Change	Description
April 18, 2024	Initial article released.

View the [Medicare Learning Network® Content Disclaimer and Department of Health & Human Services Disclosure](#).

The Medicare Learning Network®, MLN Connects®, and MLN Matters® are registered trademarks of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS).