



News Flash – Medicare is starting a new program to encourage physicians to adopt e-prescribing systems. Incentive payments will be made in mid-2010 for physicians who are successful e-prescribers during the 2009 reporting period which is January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009. The initiative is part of the Administration's broader efforts to accelerate the adoption of health IT and the establishment of a health care system based on value. To read more, see the entire HHS Fact Sheet at <http://www.hhs.gov/news/facts/eprescribing.html> on the CMS website.

MLN Matters Number: MM6169

Related Change Request (CR) #: 6169

Related CR Release Date: September 19, 2008

Effective Date: October 1, 2008

Related CR Transmittal #: R1598CP

Implementation Date: October 6, 2008

Quarterly Update to Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) Edits, Version 14.3, Effective October 1, 2008

Provider Types Affected

Physicians who submit claims to Medicare Carriers and A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs)

Background

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 6169, which provides a reminder for physicians to take note of the quarterly updates to Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) edits.

The National Correct Coding Initiative developed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) helps promote national correct coding methodologies and controls improper coding. The coding policies developed are based on coding conventions defined in:

- The American Medical Association's (AMA's) Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) manual;
- National and local policies and edits;

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- Coding guidelines developed by national societies;
- Analysis of standard medical and surgical practice; and
- Review of current coding practice.

Key Points

The latest package of CCI edits, Version 14.3, will be effective October 1, 2008. Version 14.3 of the CCI edits will include all previous versions and updates from January 1, 1996 to the present and will be organized into two tables:

- Column 1/Column 2 Correct Coding Edits; and
- Mutually Exclusive Code (MEC) Edits

Additional information about CCI, including the current CCI and MEC edits, is available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalCorrectCodInitEd> on the CMS website.

Additional Information

The CCI and MEC file formats are defined in the Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 23, Section 20.9, which can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/downloads/clm104c23.pdf> on the CMS website.

The official instruction, CR6169, issued to carriers and A/B MACs regarding this update may be viewed at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1598CP.pdf> on the CMS website. If you have any questions, please contact your Medicare 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.

News Flash - Flu Shot Reminder - Flu Season Is Coming! It's not too early to start vaccinating as soon as you receive vaccine. Encourage your patients to get a flu shot as it is still their best defense against the influenza virus. *(Medicare provides coverage of the flu vaccine without any out-of-pocket costs to the Medicare patient. No deductible or copayment/coinsurance applies.)* And don't forget, health care workers also need to protect themselves. **Get Your Flu Shot. – Not the Flu. Remember** - Influenza vaccine plus its administration are covered Part B benefits. Note that influenza vaccine is NOT a Part D covered drug. For information about Medicare's coverage of the influenza virus vaccine and its administration as well as related educational resources for health care professions and their staff, visit http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/Downloads/flu_products.pdf on the CMS website. To order, free of charge, a quick reference chart on Medicare Part B Immunization Billing, go to http://cms.meridianksi.com/kc/main/kc_frame.asp?kc_ident=kc0001&loc=5 on the CMS website.

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