



News Flash – Beginning with the April 2010 update, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will now post the National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) Edit files in Excel 2007 and in text formats. Because Excel 2007 can support a larger number of rows, each code range will be contained in one file as opposed to multiple files. This should correct the incompatibility issues that some users experienced last quarter with the Excel 2003 files. Please be aware that Excel 2003 and earlier versions of the software have a maximum row count of 65,536. Some of the NCCI Edit files exceed the maximum row count. If you do not have Excel 2007, please use the text format to import the data into an application that can support larger files. For more information on NCCI edits and to download the files, visit <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalCorrectCodInitEd/> on the CMS website.

MLN Matters® Number: MM6930

Related Change Request (CR) #: 6930

Related CR Release Date: May 21, 2010

Effective Date: July 1, 2010

Related CR Transmittal #: R1971CP

Implementation Date: July 6, 2010

Quarterly Update to Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) Edits, Version 16.2, effective July 1, 2010

Provider Types Affected

This article is for physicians submitting claims to Medicare Carriers and/or Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

What You Need to Know

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 6930, which provides a reminder for physicians to take note of the quarterly updates to Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) edits. The last quarterly release of the edit module was issued in April 2010.

Background

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) developed the National Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) to promote national correct coding methodologies and to control improper coding that leads to inappropriate payment in Part B claims.

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

The latest package of CCI edits, Version 16.2, is effective July 1, 2010, and includes all previous versions and updates from January 1, 1996, to the present. It will be organized in the following 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.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 is available at <http://www.cms.gov/manuals/downloads/clm104c23.pdf> on the CMS website. The official instruction (CR 6930) issued to your carrier and A/B MAC, RHHI regarding this change may be viewed at <http://www.cms.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1971CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

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.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website.

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