



News Flash – Get your **NEW** How to Use the National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) Tools booklet from the MLN and learn how to navigate the CMS NCCI website. This new MLN product explains how to look up Medicare code pair edits and Medically Unlikely Edits (MUEs). NCCI tools can help providers avoid coding and billing errors and subsequent payment denials. If you want to become familiar with the "National Correct Coding Initiative Policy Manual for Medicare Services" and the tools on the NCCI website, this is your best resource! Go to <http://www.cms.gov/MLNProducts/MPUB/list.asp> and enter 'How to' to find this and other MLN 'How to' series publications.

MLN Matters® Number: MM7081

Related Change Request (CR) #: 7081

Related CR Release Date: August 27, 2010

Effective Date: October 1, 2010

Related CR Transmittal #: R2036CP

Implementation Date: October 4, 2010

Quarterly Update to Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) Edits, Version 16.3, effective October 1, 2010

Provider Types Affected

Physicians and providers submitting claims to Medicare Carriers and/or Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries are impacted by this issue.

Provider Action Needed

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 7081, 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 July 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.

The coding policies developed are based on coding conventions defined in the:

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- 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 16.3, is effective October 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 7081) issued to your carrier or A/B MAC regarding this change may be viewed at <http://www.cms.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R2036CP.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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