



Related MLN Matters Article #: SE0635

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Processing of Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) Claims with Certain Drug Administration Code Pairs

Key Words

SE0635, OPPS, Code, Claims, Drug, Administration

Provider Types Affected

Providers submitting claims to Medicare Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs) for drug administration services

Key Points

Issue

- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) instructed FIs to implement Version 12.0 of the Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) edits for drug administration services paid under the OPPS and furnished on or after April 1, 2006, in CR5011 (Transmittal 896, dated March 24, 2006; <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R896CP.pdf>) effective April 1, 2006.
- When an OPPS claim triggers a CCI edit, the entire claim is not rejected or returned. Instead, only one line item is rejected. That is, the CCI edits identify pairs of codes that are not appropriately reported together unless an edit permits use of a modifier to signal that the codes represent separate and distinct services/procedures.
- Hospitals have subsequently expressed concerns about the impact of these CCI edits on coding for drug administration services under the OPPS.

Solution

- CMS has instructed FIs to:
 - Use the FI claims processing system to institute a process to add Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) modifier – 59 (Distinct Procedural Service; <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalCorrectCodInitEd/Downloads/modifier59.pdf>), where appropriate, to the line item containing the HCPCS code in column 2 of the following code pairs (reported with dates of service on or after April 1, 2006, through June 30, 2006) to enable claims to process to payment without triggering a line item rejection and CCI edit.
 - The code pairs are:

Column 1	Column 2
C8950	C8952
C8953	C8950
C8953	C8952
C8954	C8950
C8954	C8952
C8954	C8953

- After the previous step has been taken, FIs should notify providers that they may submit adjustment bills to receive payment if one of the codes in any of the above code pairs has been rejected for payment.

Note: Version 12.1 of the CCI edits (which will be incorporated in the July 2006 OPPTS Outpatient Code Editor (OCE) update) will not include CCI edits for the six code pairs listed above.

Important Links

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/mm5011.pdf>

The full descriptors for the Level II HCPCS codes can be found in the latest code books or from the latest Level II HCPCS file, which is available for downloading from

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/HCPCSReleaseCodeSets/ANHCPCS/list.asp#TopOfPage> on the CMS website.

If affected providers have any questions, they should contact their intermediary at their toll-free number, which may be found at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website.