



Related MLN Matters Article #: MM4202

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Inpatient Admission Followed by Discharge or Death Prior to Room Assignment

Key Words

CR4202, MM4202, R836CP, Discharge, Death, Room, Assignment, DRG, Weight, Calculations

Provider Types Affected

Providers billing Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs) for hospital room and board charges

Key Points

- The effective date of the instruction is July 1, 2006.
- The implementation date is July 3, 2006.
- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is updating the policy for billing room and board charges prior to room assignment.
- Change Request (CR) 4202 revises the *Medicare Claims Processing Manual* (Publication 100-04, Chapter 3, Section 40.2.2) and directs that a patient of a hospital is considered an inpatient upon issuance of written doctor's orders to that effect.
- If a patient either dies or is discharged prior to being assigned and/or occupying a room, a hospital may enter an appropriate room and board charge on the claim.
- Hospitals are not required to enter a room and board charge, but failure to do so may have a minimal impact on future DRG weight calculations.
- CR4202 instructs the intermediary to pay inpatient hospital claims with room and board charges for a patient who has either died or is discharged prior to being assigned and/or occupying a room, and not deny claims if the hospital does not submit a room and board charge for a patient who has either died or is discharged prior to being assigned and/or occupying a room.

Important Links

The *Medicare Claims Processing Manual* (Publication 100-04, Chapter 3, Section 40.2.2) can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/downloads/clm104c03.pdf> on the CMS website.

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R843CP.pdf>

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM4202.pdf>