



Related MLN Matters Article #: MM5932

Date Posted: February 25, 2008

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Teaching Physician Requirements for End-Stage Renal Disease Monthly Capitation Payment (ESRD MCP)

Key Words

MM5932, CR5932, R1458CP, Teaching, Physician, ESRD, MCP

Provider Types Affected

Physicians who bill Medicare Carriers or Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs) for ESRD-related visits in teaching settings under the MCP.

Key Points

- The effective date of the instruction is March 24, 2008.
- The implementation date is March 24, 2008.
- The Medicare Physicians Fee Schedule (MPFS) payment rules for teaching physicians' services (set forth in Code of Federal Regulations 415.172 and the *Medicare Claims Processing Manual* Chapter 12 (Physicians/Non-physician Practitioners), Section 100.1 (Payment for Physician Services in Teaching Settings Under the MPFS)), specify that if a resident participates in a service furnished in a teaching setting, the MPFS payment is made only if a teaching physician is physically present during the key portion of any service or procedure for which payment is sought.
- With regard to the monthly management of dialysis patients, the ESRD-related visits are considered to be the key portion of the MCP service that determines the applicable payment amount.
- Previously, Chapter 12, Section 100.1.6 of the *Medicare Claims Processing Manual* stated that the teaching physician presence policy does not apply to the renal dialysis services of a physician paid under the MCP.
- This manual instruction did not reflect policy changes made to the way physicians and practitioners are paid for managing patients on outpatient dialysis. As discussed in the calendar year 2004 Medicare physician fee schedule rule, the MCP physician or practitioner must furnish at least one patient visit per month to receive payment for the MCP service (center-based patients).

- In Change Request (CR) 5932, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) modifies Chapter 12, Section 100.1.6 to indicate that physician presence policy applies for ESRD-related visits furnished under the MCP.
- This means, as the teaching physician, providers may count the patient visits that residents furnish toward the MCP visits if they are physically present during the visit.
- Providers may utilize the resident's notes. However, they must document their physical presence during the visit(s) furnished by the resident. They must document that they reviewed the resident's notes.

Note: The outpatient ESRD MCP services G codes are reported once per month, and providers could document their physical presence during the visit(s) and their review of the resident's notes as part of an extensive once a month MCP note.

Important Links

The related MLN Matters article can be found at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5932.pdf> on the CMS website.

The official instruction issued (CR5932) regarding this change may be found at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1458CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If providers have any questions, they may contact their 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.