



Related MLN Matters Article #: SE0439

Date Posted: August 3, 2004

Related CR #: N/A

## *Skilled Nursing Facility Consolidated Billing as It Relates to Clinical Social Workers*

### Key Words

SE0439, Skilled, Nursing, Facilities, SNF, Prospective, Payment, System, PPS, Consolidated, Billing, CB, Clinical Social, Workers, CSW, Global, Per Diem, Rate, Part A, Stay

### Provider Types Affected

Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs), physicians, practitioners, and Clinical Social Workers (CSWs)

### Key Points

- SE0439 is an informational article that describes SNF Consolidated Billing (CB) as it applies to CSW services furnished to SNF residents during a Part A covered stay.
- CB assigns SNFs the Medicare billing responsibility for virtually all of the services that the SNFs' residents receive during the course of a Part A stay.
- Payment for this full range of services is included in the SNF Prospective Payment System (PPS) global per diem rate.
- Exceptions are those services that are specifically excluded from this provision, which remain separately billable to Medicare Part B by the entity that actually furnished the service.
- Since CSW services do not currently appear on this excluded list, they are included with the overall package of services that is subject to the SNF CB requirement.
- Although the inclusion of CSW services under the SNF CB requirement does not preclude Medicare coverage for these services, it makes the SNF responsible for including them in its Part A bill for the resident's covered stay.
- Bundling CSW services in the Part A payment rate is not a new concept.
- Corresponding Medicare comprehensive billing requirement for inpatient hospital services, which similarly includes CSW service while excluding the services of certain other types of mental health professionals, has been in effect since 1983 and served as a model for SNF CB.

- Affected providers should see MLN Matters Special Edition SE0431 for a detailed overview of SNF CB. This article lists services excluded from SNF CB and can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0431.pdf> on the CMS web site.
- Also, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) MLN Consolidated Billing web site can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/SNFConsolidatedBilling/> on the CMS web site. It includes the following relevant information:
  - General SNF CB information;
  - Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes that can be separately paid by the Medicare carrier (i.e., services not included in CB);
  - Therapy codes that must be consolidated in a non-covered stay; and
  - All code lists that are subject to quarterly and annual updates and should be reviewed periodically for the latest revisions.
- Affected providers can reference the SNF PPS Consolidated Billing web site, which can be found at [http://www.cms.hhs.gov/SNFPSPS/05\\_ConsolidatedBilling.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/SNFPSPS/05_ConsolidatedBilling.asp) on the CMS web site. It includes the following relevant information:
  - Background;
  - Historical questions and answers;
  - Links to related articles; and
  - Links to publications (including transmittals and Federal Register notices).

### Important Links

The related MLN Matters article can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0439.pdf> on the CMS web site.