



Related MLN Matters Article #: SE0536

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Reminder Regarding Medicare Billing Rules for Ambulance Services Rendered to Medicare Patients During an Inpatient Hospital Stay

Key Words

SE0536, Medicare, Billing, Rule, Ambulance, Service, Inpatient, Hospital, Stay

Provider Types Affected

Suppliers of ambulance services billing Medicare Carriers for services provided to Medicare patients during an inpatient hospital stay

Key Points

- The purpose of MLN Matters article SE0536 is to remind ambulance service suppliers of the rules regarding payment for certain services provided to Medicare patients in an inpatient hospital stay.
- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will add an edit in the Medicare's claims processing systems to prevent payment by carriers for services that are bundled in the hospital's payment under the applicable inpatient Prospective Payment System (PPS).
- As an initial implementation of this policy, Medicare will stop making payments to independent suppliers of ambulance services for beneficiaries in an inpatient hospital stay.
- Under the inpatient PPS, Medicare fiscal intermediaries (FIs) reimburse hospitals a predetermined amount for services furnished to Medicare beneficiaries based on the beneficiary's condition and severity of treatment modalities.
- All services received by hospital inpatients must be supplied by the hospital either directly or under arrangements.
- With the exception of the days of admission and discharge, costs for transportation of a hospital inpatient by ambulance to receive specialized services, and costs for radiology services furnished to inpatients by a physician's office, another hospital or a radiology clinic are not payable by Medicare.

Important Links

The related MLN Matters article can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0536.pdf> on the CMS website.

If providers/suppliers have questions, they may contact their Medicare FI or carrier at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website.