



## CSR Inquiry Assistance

Related Medlearn Matters Article #: MM2944

Date Posted: August 23, 2004

Related CR #: CR 2944

### *Implementation of Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Claim Edits for Therapy Codes Considered Separately Payable Physician Services*

#### Key Words

Consolidated Billing, CB, Therapy Services, Therapy, SNF, Skilled, Nursing, Claims Edits, Surgery, Physician, MM3333, HCPCS, Non-Covered, CR2944, MM2944

#### Provider Types Affected

Physicians and other providers billing Medicare carriers for services provided at SNFs

#### Key Points

- The effective date of this instruction is July 1, 2004.
- Physical, occupational, and speech therapy services are subject to consolidated billing when provided to beneficiaries in either a Part A covered SNF stay or during a non-covered stay.
- MM2944 incorrectly indicates that services provided in a non-covered SNF stay are both subject to consolidated billing and reimbursed through the prospective payment system.
- MM3333 provides the corrected language by removing the language indicating that the services are subject to the prospective payment system when provided to beneficiaries in a non-covered SNF stay.
- MM3333 can be viewed by going to:  
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/matters/mmarticles/2004/MM3333.pdf>
- A small number of physical, occupational, and speech therapy services are considered surgery when performed by a physician, and may be separately paid by Medicare.
- When performed by a physical or occupational therapist, these service are considered therapy and continue to be subject to consolidated billing.
- Medicare claims systems will allow separate payment to providers, other than physical and occupational therapists, for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries in a Part A covered SNF stay or a non-covered SNF stay for the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes in the table on page two of MM2944.

- This table can be view by going to:  
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/matters/mmarticles/2004/MM2944.pdf>
- When physical and occupational therapists submit claims for these services for Medicare patients in a SNF stay, the claim will not be paid and the billing provider will receive a remittance message with remarks code N121, which states that there is "No coverage for items or services by this type of practitioner for patients in a covered Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) stay."

### Important Links

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/matters/mmarticles/2004/MM2944.pdf>

[http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/pm\\_trans/R90CP.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/pm_trans/R90CP.pdf)