



Related MLN Matters Article #: MM3647

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Update to 10-04 and Therapy Code Lists

Key Words

CR3647, MM3647, Therapy, Physical, Speech-Language, Occupational, HCPCS

Provider Types Affected

Providers and suppliers billing Medicare Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs) for ambulance transports of Medicare patients in a covered Part A SNF stay

Key Points

- The effective date of the instruction is January 3, 2005.
- The implementation date is July 5, 2005.
- CR3647 updates the list of HCPCS codes that describe therapy services for:
 - Physical therapy;
 - Occupational therapy; and
 - Speech-language pathology.
- Therapy refers only to physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy.
- CMS identifies HCPCS codes in Table 1, page 2 of MM3647 as therapy services.
- Notes below this table provide details about the codes.
- The existence of a HCPCS codes does not imply that such services are covered.
- Financial limitations on therapy services were mandated by the Balanced Budget Act (BBA).
- A list of services to which limits would apply was published as AB-03-018 on February 7, 2003.
- The original list may be viewed at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/Downloads/AB03018.pdf> on the CMS website.
- Specialty codes 73 and 74 were incorrectly noted in transmittal AB-03-018 and have been reassigned to specialties that are not therapy services.

- Limitations are not in effect in year 2005, but are mandated to be implemented on January 1, 2006 unless new legislation is passed.

Important Links

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM3647.pdf>

The official instruction issued to carriers/intermediaries regarding this change may be viewed at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R515CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If affected providers have any questions, they should contact their carrier/intermediary at their toll-free number, which may be found at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website.