



Provider Inquiry Assistance

Adding a New Specialty Code for Hospice and Palliative Care – JA6311

Related CR Release Date: April 24, 2009

Date Job Aid Revised: May 4, 2009

Effective Date: October 1, 2009

Implementation Date: October 5, 2009

Key Words MM6311, CR6311, R1715CP, Specialty, Hospice

Contractors Affected

- Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs)
- Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs)
- Medicare Carriers

Provider Types Affected Physicians and other providers who bill Medicare Carriers, FIs, or A/B MACs for hospice and palliative care services provided to Medicare beneficiaries



Effective October 1, 2009, the new physician specialty code for Hospice and Palliative Care will be 17.

Provider Needs to Know... The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will add new physician specialty code 17 to categorize Hospice and Palliative Care.

Background

- Medicare physicians self-designate their Medicare physician specialty on the Medicare enrollment application (CMS-855I) when they enroll in the Medicare program.
- Medicare specialty codes describe the specific/unique types of medicine that physicians practice.
- Specialty codes are used by CMS for programmatic and claims processing purposes.

Operational N/A
Impact

Reference
Materials

The related MLN Matters® article can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6311.pdf> on the CMS website.

The official instruction (CR6311) issued regarding this change may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1715CP.pdf> on the CMS website.
