



New Patient Discharge Status Code 21 to Define Discharges or Transfers to Court/Law Enforcement – JA6385

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

MM6385, CR6385, R1718CP, Patient, Discharge, Status

Contractors Affected

- Fiscal Intermediaries
- Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors

Provider Types Affected

Hospitals submitting claims to Medicare Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs) and/or A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries



Change Request (CR) 6385 provides implementing instructions for a new patient discharge status code (21), which defines discharges or transfers to court/law enforcement. This includes transfers to incarceration facilities such as jail, prison, or other detention facility.

Provider Needs to Know...

- The National Uniform Billing Committee created a new patient discharge status code (21) to define discharges or transfers to court/law enforcement.
- Patient discharge status code 21 usage includes transfers to incarceration facilities such as jails, prisons, or other detention facilities.
- Medicare systems will accept this code for claims with discharge dates on or after October 1, 2009.
- For Inpatient Prospective Payment System hospitals, the post-acute transfer payment policy will not apply to claims that contain patient discharge status code 21.

Background

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has required Field Locator 17 (patient discharge status code) on the Uniform Billing Claims Form (UB-04) and its electronic equivalence. The patient discharge status code indicates the disposition or discharge status of the beneficiary on the submitted claims.

**Operational
Impact**

N/A

**Reference
Materials**

The related MLN Matters® article can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6385.pdf> on the CMS website.

The official instruction (CR6385) issued regarding this change may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1718CP.pdf> on the CMS website.
