Modification of the Common Working File (CWF) Copybook to Transmit "WC" Qualifier Alpha Codes to Various Systems (supplement to Change Request (CR) 5371) – JA6438

Related CR Release Date: May 1, 2009

Date Job Aid Revised: May 15, 2009

Effective Date: October 1, 2009

Implementation Date: October 5, 2009

Key Words	MM6438, CR6438, R487OTN, CR5371, CWF, WC, Qualifier
Contractors Affected	• Medicare Carriers • Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractors (DME MACs) • Fiscal intermediaries (FIs) • Regional Home Health Intermediaries (RHHIs) • Part A/B MACs (A/B MACs)
Provider Types Affected	Physician, providers and suppliers who bill Medicare Carriers, DME MACs, FIs, RHHIs, and A/B MACs for services related to workers' compensation liability claims

CR6438 implements the necessary adjustments to allow for the transfer of the "WC" modifier's alpha codes from the CWF system to other important Medicare systems. It is informational only.

Provider Needs to Know...	• CR5371 created a new Medicare Secondary Payer (MSP) code in Medicare's claims processing systems in order to prevent Medicare from paying primarily for future medical expenses that should be covered by workers' compensation Medicare set-aside arrangements (WCMSA). • With the creation of the new MSP code, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has the capability to discontinue conditional payments for diagnosis codes related to WCMSA settlements.

Background	• A WCMSA is an allocation of funds from a "WC" related settlement, judgment, or award that is used to pay for an individual's future medical and/or future prescription drug treatment expenses related to a workers' compensation injury, illness, or disease that would otherwise be reimbursable by Medicare. • The "WC" qualifier denotes a WCMSA. • CMS has a review process for proposed WCMSA amounts and updates its systems in connection with its determination, regarding the proposed WCMSA amount. • CR5371 added the qualifier of "WC" to distinguish a WCMSA MSP Auxiliary Record from a "WC" MSP record. • Even though the "WC" qualifier was added by CR5371, no adjustment was made to allow for the transfer of the "WC" modifier's alpha codes from the CWF system to other important Medicare systems.
Operational Impact	N/A
Reference Materials	The related MLN Matters® article can be found at *http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6438.pdf* on the CMS website. The official instruction (CR6438) issued regarding this change may be viewed at *http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R487OTN.pdf* on the CMS website. Providers may view additional information regarding WCMSAs at *http://www.cms.hhs.gov/WorkersCompAgencyServices* on the CMS website. Providers may view an MLN Matters® article related to CR5371 at *http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5371.pdf* on the CMS website.