

# MLN Matters®

Information for Medicare Fee-For-Service Health Care Professionals



## News Flash -

### Vaccines Aren't Just for Kids!

**August is National Immunization Awareness Month!** Too many adults become ill, disabled, and die each year from diseases that could have been prevented by vaccines. Everyone from the very young to senior citizens can benefit from immunizations. While many consider this to be a time to ensure that children are immunized for school, *National Immunization Awareness Month* is the perfect time to remind patients, health care employees, family members, friends, co-workers and others to take advantage of opportunities to get up-to date on their vaccinations. For more information about Medicare's coverage of adult immunizations, including coverage, coding, billing and reimbursement, please visit the MLN Preventive Services Educational Products Web Page <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/index.html> and <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prevention/Immunizations/index.html> on the CMS website.

MLN Matters Number: MM5639

Related Change Request (CR) #: 5639

Related CR Release Date: August 17, 2007

Effective Date: November 19, 2007

Related CR Transmittal #: R75BP and R219PI

Implementation Date: November 19, 2007

**Note:** This article was updated on September 10, 2012, to reflect current Web addresses. All other information remains the same.

## Nurse Practitioner (NP) Services and Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) Services

### Provider Types Affected

Nurse practitioners (NP) and clinical nurse specialist (CNS) who bill Medicare Carriers and Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs) for services provided to Medicare Beneficiaries.

### What You Need to Know

In CR 5639, from which this article is taken, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announces that their manuals are being updated by adding the National Board on Certification of Hospice and Palliative Nurses (NBCHPN) to the list of recognized national certifying bodies for NPs. This list will also provide the new name for the National Certification Board of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners and Nurses and provide the correct reference for the Critical Care Certification

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Corporation. This same list of recognized national certifying bodies for advanced practice nurses will be included under the manual instruction on CNS services.

Carriers and A/B MACs will enroll nurses, under the NP and CNS benefits, who meet all of the other NP or CNS qualifications; and are certified as advanced practice nurses by any of the recognized national certifying bodies listed below, effective November 19, 2007.

## Background

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Federal regulations that govern nurse practitioner (NP) services at 42 CFR 410.75 and those governing the clinical nurse specialists (CNS) services at 42 CFR 410.76 require that these advanced practice nurses be certified by a national certifying body that has established standards for NPs and CNSs.

CR 5639, from which this article is taken, announces that CMS is adding the National Board on Certification of Hospice and Palliative Nurses (NBCHPN) to the list of recognized national certifying bodies for NPs at the advanced practice level, located in the *Medicare Benefit Policy Manual*, Chapter 15 (Covered Medical and Other Health Services), Section 200 (Nurse Practitioner (NP) Services). CR5639 also announces the addition of this same list of recognized national certifying bodies for advanced practice CNSs in Section 210 (Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) Services) and in Chapter 10, Sections 12.4.5 and 12.4.8 of the *Medicare Program Integrity Manual*.

Effective November 19, 2007, the list of recognized national certifying bodies for NPs and CNSs at the advanced practice level is as follows:

- American Academy of Nurse Practitioners;
- American Nurses Credentialing Center;
- National Certification Corporation for Obstetric, Gynecologic and Neonatal Nursing Specialties;
- Pediatric Nursing Certification Board (previously named the National Certification Board of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners and Nurses);
- Oncology Nurses Certification Corporation;
- AACN Certification Corporation; and
- National Board on Certification of Hospice and Palliative Nurses.

## Additional Information

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You can find more information about NP and CNS services by going to CR 5639, which is in two transmittals located on the CMS website. As an attachment to transmittal R75BP (<http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and->

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[Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R75BP.pdf](http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R75BP.pdf)), you will find updated *Medicare Benefit Policy* manual, Chapter 15 (Covered Medical and Other Health Services), Sections 200 (Nurse Practitioner (NP) Services) and 210 (Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) Services). As an attachment to transmittal R219PI (<http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R219PI.pdf>), you will find updated Chapter 10, Sections 12.4.5 and 12.4.8 of the *Medicare Program Integrity Manual*.

If you have any questions, please contact your carrier or A/B MAC at their toll-free number, which is available at <http://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/provider-compliance-interactive-map/index.html> on the CMS website.

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