

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



News Flash –

REVISED product from the Medicare Learning Network® (MLN)

- ["Inpatient Rehabilitation Services: Complying with Documentation Requirements,"](#) Fact Sheet, ICN 905643, Downloadable only.

MLN Matters® Number: MM8044

Related Change Request (CR) #: CR 8044

Related CR Release Date: October 26, 2013

Effective Date: April 1, 2013

Related CR Transmittal #: R161BP, R2573CP, and R80GI

Implementation Date: April 1, 2013

Manual Updates to Clarify Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Claims Processing

Provider Types Affected

This MLN Matters® Article is intended for Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs), hospitals, and ambulance suppliers submitting claims to Medicare contractors (Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs) and A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs)) for services to Medicare beneficiaries.

Provider Action Needed

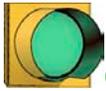


STOP – Impact to You

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 8044, which informs Medicare contractors that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has updated the manuals by adding policy clarifications pertaining to the SNF consolidated billing provision and claims processing, including guidance issued previously in a series of MLN Matters® Special Edition articles on this subject. This article and CR8044 contain no new policies.

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GO – What You Need to Do

Make sure that your billing staffs are aware of the manual clarifications made in CR8044, including information on:

- The Definition of An Inpatient for Starting or Ending a Benefit Period;
- Part B Consolidated Billing and exclusions;
- Emergency Services;
- Hospice care;
- Certain Chemotherapy Drugs;
- Ambulance Services;
- Screening and Preventive Services;
- Therapy Services;
- The Three Day Qualifying Hospital Stay;
- Daily Skilled Service; and
- The Definition of a Beneficiary's Home for Part B Durable Medical Equipment (DME) coverage.

Background

The purpose of CR8044 is to update the Medicare manuals to clarify key components of SNF claims processing. The changes are intended only to clarify the existing policies. No new policies are contained in CR8044. The updated manuals and sections are as follows:

- Chapters 1 and 3 of the "Medicare General Information, Eligibility, and Entitlement Manual" are revised to explain that the various Part A benefit categories are subject to separate and mutually exclusive day limits and explain the start and the end of a benefit period in a SNF.
- Chapter 6 of the "Medicare Claims Processing Manual" is revised to clarify the meaning of Part B Consolidated Billing (CB) for a SNF and explains that the SNF CB excludes certain practitioner services, emergency services performed in hospitals, hospice services, certain chemotherapy drugs, ambulance services, vaccines, certain therapy services, and certain dialysis services.
- Chapters 8 and 15 of the "Medicare Benefit Policy Manual" are revised to clarify the conditions under which SNF services may be covered; daily skilled services is clarified to mean that, unless there is a legitimate medical need for scheduling a skilled service each day, the "daily basis" requirement for SNF coverage would not be met; for rental and purchase of

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DME for home use, assisted living facilities and Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded (ICFs/MR) are provided as specific examples of a type of institution that is not a hospital or SNF and, therefore, can meet the definition of a beneficiary's "home" in this context.

Additional Information

The official instruction, CR8044, was issued to your FI and A/B MAC regarding this change via three transmittals, one for each manual being revised. The transmittal for the "Medicare General Information, Eligibility, and Entitlement Manual" is available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R80GI.pdf> on the CMS website. The transmittal for the "Medicare Benefit Policy Manual" is available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R161BP.pdf> on the CMS website. The transmittal for the "Medicare Claims Processing Manual" is available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R2573CP.pdf> on the CMS website. The revised manual chapters are attached to these transmittals.

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

News Flash - Diabetes and the Seasonal Flu - November is National Diabetes Awareness Month. Diabetes can weaken the immune system, which can put seniors and others with diabetes at greater risk for flu-related complications like pneumonia. Medicare provides coverage for one seasonal influenza virus vaccine per influenza season for all Medicare beneficiaries. Medicare generally provides coverage of pneumococcal vaccination and its administration once in a lifetime for all Medicare beneficiaries. Medicare may provide coverage of additional pneumococcal vaccinations based on risk or uncertainty of beneficiary pneumococcal vaccination status. Medicare provides coverage for the seasonal flu and pneumococcal vaccines and their administration for seniors and others with Medicare with no co-pay or deductible. And remember, seasonal flu vaccine is particularly important for health care workers, who may spread the flu to their patients. Don't forget to immunize yourself and your staff. Protect your patients. Protect your family. Protect yourself. *Know what to do about the flu.*

Remember – The influenza vaccine plus its administration and the pneumococcal vaccine plus its administration are covered Part B benefits. The influenza vaccine and pneumococcal vaccine are NOT Part D-covered drugs. CMS has posted the 2012-2013 [Seasonal Influenza Vaccines Pricing](#). You may also refer to the [MLN Matters® Article #MM8047](#), "Influenza Vaccine Payment Allowances - Annual Update for 2012-2013 Season."

For more information on coverage and billing of the flu vaccine and its administration, please visit the [CMS Medicare Learning Network® Preventive Services Educational Products](#) and [CMS Immunizations](#) web pages. And, while some providers may offer the flu vaccine, others can help their patients locate a vaccine provider within their local community. [HealthMap Vaccine Finder](#) is a free, online service where users can search for locations offering flu vaccines.

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