

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



News Flash – CMS is accepting Notices of Intent to Apply for the Medicare Shared Savings Program, Program Start Date January 1, 2014 – NOI Due by May 31. If you are interested in applying for participation for the January 1, 2014 program start date of the Medicare Shared Savings Program, please submit a Notice of Intent to Apply (NOI) by May 31, 2013. For more information, visit the [Shared Savings Program Application](#) web page. To learn more about the application process, [register](#) to attend upcoming National Provider Calls on June 20 and July 18.

MLN Matters® Number: MM8298

Related Change Request (CR) #: CR 8298

Related CR Release Date: May 10, 2013

Effective Date: July 1, 2013

Related CR Transmittal #: R2700CP

Implementation Date: July 1, 2013

Quarterly Update to the Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) Edits, Version 19.2, Effective July 1, 2013

Provider Types Affected

This MLN Matters® Article is intended for physicians, other providers, and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare contractors (carriers and A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs)) for services to Medicare beneficiaries.

Provider Action Needed

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 8298 which informs Medicare contractors about the release of the latest package of National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) edits, Version 19.2, which will be effective July 1, 2013. Make sure that your billing staffs are aware of these changes. See the Background and Additional Information Sections of this article for further details regarding these changes.

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Background

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) developed the National CCI to promote national correct coding methodologies and to control improper coding that leads to inappropriate payment in Part B claims. The coding policies developed are based on coding conventions defined in the American Medical Association's Current Procedural Terminology manual, national and local policies and edits, coding guidelines developed by national societies, analysis of standard medical and surgical practice, and review of current coding practice.

The latest package of CCI edits, Version 19.2, effective July 1, 2013, will soon be available to CMS contractors via the CMS Data Center (CDC). A test file will be available to them on or about May 2, 2013, and a final file will be available to them on or about May 17, 2013.

Version 19.2 will include all previous versions and updates from January 1, 1996, to the present. In the past, CCI was organized in two tables: Column 1/Column 2 Correct Coding Edits and Mutually Exclusive Code (MEC) Edits. In order to simplify the use of NCCI edit files (two tables), on April 1, 2012, CMS consolidated these two edit files into the Column One/Column Two Correct Coding edit file. Separate consolidations have occurred for the two practitioner NCCI edit files and the two NCCI edit files used for Outpatient Code Editor (OCE). It will only be necessary to search the Column One/Column Two Correct Coding edit file for active or previously deleted edits.

CMS no longer publishes a Mutually Exclusive edit file on its website for either practitioner or outpatient hospital services, since all active and deleted edits will appear in the single Column One/Column Two Correct Coding edit file on each website. **The edits previously contained in the Mutually Exclusive edit file are NOT being deleted but are being moved to the Column One/Column Two Correct Coding edit file.**

Additional Information

The official instruction, CR8298 issued to your carrier and A/B MAC regarding this change may be viewed at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R2700CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

Refer to the CMS NCCI webpage for additional information at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/NationalCorrectCodInitEd/index.html> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your carrier 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.

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