

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



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MLN Matters® Number: MM8474

Related Change Request (CR) #: CR 8474

Related CR Release Date: October 25, 2013

Effective Date: January 1, 2014

Related CR Transmittal #: R2802CP

Implementation Date: January 6, 2014

## **2014 Annual Update of Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Codes for Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Consolidated Billing (CB) Update**

### **Provider Types Affected**

This MLN Matters® Article is intended for physicians, other providers, and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare contractors (carriers, Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractors (DME MACs), Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs), Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs), Regional Home Health Intermediaries (RHHI), and/or Home Health & Hospice (HH&H) MACs for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries who are in a Part A covered Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) stay.

### **Provider Action Needed**



#### **STOP – Impact to You**

If you provide services to Medicare beneficiaries in a Part A covered SNF stay, information in Change Request (CR) 8474 could impact your payments.

#### **Disclaimer**

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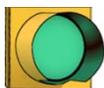


### CAUTION – What You Need to Know

This article is based on CR 8474 which provides the 2014 annual update of HCPCS Codes for SNF CB and how the updates affect edits in Medicare claims processing systems.

By the first week in December 2013:

- Physicians and other providers who bill carriers or A/B MACs are advised that new code files (entitled 2014 Carrier/A/B MAC Update) will be posted at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Billing/SNFConsolidatedBilling/index.html> on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website; and
- Providers who bill FIs or A/B MACs are advised that new Excel and PDF files (entitled 2014 FI/A/B MAC Update) will be posted to <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Billing/SNFConsolidatedBilling/index.html> on the CMS website.



### GO – What You Need to Do

It is **important and necessary** for you to read the "General Explanation of the Major Categories" PDF file located at the bottom of each year's FI/A/B MAC update in order to understand the Major Categories, including additional exclusions not driven by HCPCS codes.

## Background

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Medicare's claims processing systems currently have edits in place for claims received for beneficiaries in a Part A covered SNF stay, as well as for beneficiaries in a non-covered stay. Changes to HCPCS codes and Medicare Physician Fee Schedule designations are used to revise these edits to allow carriers, A/B MACs, DME MACs, and FIs to make appropriate payments in accordance with policy for SNF CB contained in the "Medicare Claims Processing Manual", Chapter 6 (SNF Inpatient Part A Billing and SNF Consolidated Billing), Sections 20.6 (SNF CB Annual Update Process for Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs)/A/B MACs) and 110.4.1 (Annual Update Process). You can find this manual at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/clm104c06.pdf> on the CMS website.

CPT codes 11042 (Debride skin/tissue), 11043 (Debride tissue/muscle), and 11044 (Debride tissue/muscle/bone) will be eliminated from the FI/A/B/MAC Minor Surgery INCLUSION list effective 12/31/2012.

Also, note that these edits only allow services that are excluded from CB to be separately paid by Medicare contractors.

## Additional Information

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The official instruction, CR 8474 issued to your Medicare contractor regarding this change may be viewed at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R2802CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

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If you have any questions, please contact your Medicare contractor 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** - Generally, Medicare Part B covers one flu vaccination and its administration per flu season for beneficiaries without co-pay or deductible. Now is the perfect time to vaccinate beneficiaries. Health care providers are encouraged to get a flu vaccine to help protect themselves from the flu and to keep from spreading it to their family, co-workers, and patients. **Note: The flu vaccine is not a Part D-covered drug.** For more information, visit:

- [MLN Matters® Article #MM8433](#), "Influenza Vaccine Payment Allowances - Annual Update for 2013-2014 Season"
- [MLN Matters® Article #SE1336](#), "2013-2014 Influenza (Flu) Resources for Health Care Professionals"
- [HealthMap Vaccine Finder](#) - a free, online service where users can search for locations offering flu and other adult vaccines. While some providers may offer flu vaccines, those that don't can help their patients locate flu vaccines within their local community.
- The CDC website for [Free Resources](#), including [prescription-style tear-pads](#) that allow you to give a customized flu shot reminder to patients at high-risk for complications from the flu.

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