

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



MLN Matters® Number: MM8611

Related Change Request (CR) #: CR 8611

Related CR Release Date: February 28, 2014

Effective Date: April 1, 2014

Related CR Transmittal #: R2888CP

Implementation Date: July 7, 2014 (Contractors with the capability to do so will implement April 1, 2014)

## Healthcare Provider Taxonomy Codes (HPTC) Update, April 2014

### Provider Types Affected

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This MLN Matters® Article is intended for physicians, other providers, and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare Claims Administration Contractors (Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs), carriers, A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs), Regional Home Health Intermediaries (RHHIs), Home Health and Hospices (HHHs), and Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractors (DME MACs) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

### Provider Action Needed

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Change Request (CR) 8611, from which this article is taken, instructs Medicare contractors to obtain the most recent HPTC set and use it to update their internal HPTC tables and/or reference files.

### Background

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The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) requires that covered entities use the standards adopted under this law for electronically transmitting certain health care transactions, including health care claims. The standards include implementation guides which dictate when and how data must be sent, including specifying the code sets which must be used.

#### Disclaimer

This article was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This article may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents. CPT only copyright 2012 American Medical Association.

Both the current Accredited Standards Committee (ASC) X-12 837 institutional and professional Technical Report Type 3 (TR3s) require that the National Uniform Claim Committee (NUCC) HPTC set be used to identify provider specialty information on a health care claim. However, the standards do not mandate the reporting of provider specialty information via a HPTC be on every claim, nor for every provider to be identified by specialty. The standard implementation guides state that this information is:

- "Required when the payer's adjudication is known to be impacted by the provider taxonomy code," and
- "If not required by this implementation guide, do not send."

**Note:** Medicare does not use HPTCs to adjudicate its claims and would not expect to see these codes on a Medicare claim. However, currently, it validates any HPTC that a provider happens to supply against the NUCC HPTC set.

The Transactions and Code Sets Final Rule, published on August 17, 2000, establishes that the maintainer of the code set determines its effective date. See <http://aspe.hhs.gov/admsimp/final/txfin00.htm> on the Internet. This rule also mandates that covered entities must use the nonmedical data code set specified in the standard implementation guide that is valid at the time the transaction is initiated. For implementation purposes, Medicare generally uses the date the transaction is received for validating a particular nonmedical data code set required in a standard transaction.

The HPTC set is maintained by the NUCC for standardized classification of health care providers, and the NUCC updates the code set twice a year with changes effective April 1 and October 1. The HPTC set is available for view or for download from the Washington Publishing Company (WPC) at <http://www.wpc-edi.com/codes> on the Internet

CR 8611 implements the NUCC HPTC code set that is effective on April 1, 2014, and instructs Medicare contractors to obtain the most recent HPTC set and use it to update their internal HPTC tables and/or reference files.

When reviewing the HPTC set online, revisions made since the last release can be identified by the color code:

- New items are green;
- Modified items are orange; and
- Inactive items are red.

## Additional Information

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The official instruction, CR 8611 issued to your carriers, FIs, A/B MACs, RHHIs, HHHs, and DME MACs, regarding this change may be viewed at

<http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R2888CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

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If you have any questions, please contact your carriers, FIs, A/B MACs, RHHIs, HHHs, or DME MACs, 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.

**Free Resources** can be downloaded from the CDC website including prescription-style tear-pads that will allow you to give a customized flu shot reminder to patients at high-risk for complications from the flu. On the CDC order form, under "Programs", select "Immunizations and Vaccines (Influenza/Flu)" for a list of flu related resources.

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