

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



REVISED products from the MLN

- [“Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment \(SBIRT\) Services.”](#) Fact Sheet, ICN 904084, Downloadable only.

MLN Matters® Number: MM8781

Related Change Request (CR) #: CR 8781

Related CR Release Date: August 22, 2014

Effective Date: January 1, 2015

Related CR Transmittal #: R3044CP

Implementation Date: January 5, 2015

Quarterly Update to the Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) Edits, Version 21.0, Effective January 1, 2015

Provider Types Affected

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

Provider Action Needed

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 8781, which informs MACs about the release of the latest package of CCI edits, Version 21.0, which will be effective January 1, 2015. Make sure that your billing staffs are aware of these changes.

Background

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) developed the National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) 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

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guidelines developed by national societies, analysis of standard medical and surgical practice, and review of current coding practice.

The latest package of NCCI edits, Version 21.0, effective January 1, 2015, will soon be available to MACs via the CMS Data Center (CDC). A test file will be available to them on or about November 2, 2014, and a final file will be available to them on or about November 17, 2014.

Version 21.0 will include all previous versions and updates from January 1, 1996, to the present. In the past, NCCI 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 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. Refer to the CMS NCCI webpage for additional information at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/NationalCorrectCodInitEd/index.html> on the CMS website.

Additional Information

The official instruction, CR 8781 issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R3044CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your MAC at their toll-free number. That number is available at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/index.html> under - How Does It Work.

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