

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



MLN Matters® Number: MM8985

Related Change Request (CR) #: CR 8985

Related CR Release Date: November 14, 2014

Effective Date: January 1, 2015

Related CR Transmittal #: R3121CP

Implementation Date: January 5, 2015

2015 Annual Update to the Therapy Code List

Note: This article was revised on August 29, 2017, to add a reference to MLN Matters Article, [MM10176](#). MM10176 clarifies “Always Therapy” and provides guidance on the correct modifiers to use. All other information remains unchanged.

Provider Types Affected

This MLN Matters® Article is intended for physicians, therapists, and other providers who submit claims to Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs), including Home Health & Hospice MACs, for outpatient rehabilitation therapy services that are provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

Provider Action Needed

Change Request (CR) 8985 updates the therapy code list for Calendar Year (CY) 2015 by adding two "Sometimes Therapy" codes, and deleting two current codes. The update to the therapy code list reflects those made in the CY 2015 Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System and Current Procedural Terminology, Fourth Edition (HCPCS/CPT-4). Make sure your billing staff are aware of these changes.

Background

The Social Security Act (Section 1834(k)(5)) (see http://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title18/1834.htm on the Internet) requires that all claims for outpatient rehabilitation therapy services and all comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facility (CORF) services be reported using a uniform coding system. The Healthcare Common Procedure Coding

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System/Current Procedural Terminology, 2015 Edition (HCPCS/CPT-4) is the coding system used for the reporting of these services.

CR 8985 updates the list of codes that sometimes, or always, describe therapy services. The additions, changes, and deletions to the therapy code list reflect those made in the CY 2014 and 2015 Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System and Current Procedural Terminology, Fourth Edition (HCPCS/CPT-4).

The therapy code listing can be found at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Billing/TherapyServices/index.html> on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website.

Specifically, CR 8985 updates the code list by adding HCPCS Codes 97607 (Neg press wnd tx) and 97608 (Neg press wound tx >50 cm) to the "sometimes therapy" codes and deleting HCPCS Codes G0456 and G0457 from the 2015 therapy code list. Code 97608 replaces current code G0457 effective January 1, 2015 and 97607 replaces current code G0456 effective January 1, 2015.

Additional Information

The official instruction, [CR 8985](#), issued to your MAC regarding this change, is available on the CMS website.

Document History

Date of Change	Description
August 29, 2017	The article was revised to add a reference to MLN Matters Article, MM10176 . MM10176 clarifies “Always Therapy” and provides guidance on the correct modifiers to use.
November 17, 2014	Initial article released

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