

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



REVISED product from the Medicare Learning Network® (MLN)

- **“HIPAA EDI Standards”**, Web-based Training (WBT)

MLN Matters® Number: MM9326

Related Change Request (CR) #: CR 9326

Related CR Release Date: September 18, 2015

Effective Date: January 1, 2016

Related CR Transmittal #: R3353CP

Implementation Date: January 4, 2016

**Quarterly Update to the Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) Edits, Version 22.0,  
Effective January 1, 2016**

**Provider Types Affected**

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

**Provider Action Needed**

Change Request (CR) 9326 informs MACs about the release of the latest package of CCI edits, Version 22.0, which will be effective January 1, 2016. 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

**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 2014 American Medical Association. All rights reserved.

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 22.0, effective January 1, 2016, will be available via the CMS Data Center (CDC). A test file will be available on or about November 2, 2015, and a final file will be available on or about November 17, 2015.

Version 22.0 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 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 9326 issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R3353CP.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.

### 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 2014 American Medical Association. All rights reserved.