

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



MLN Matters® Number: MM9659

Related Change Request (CR) #: CR 9659

Related CR Release Date: August 26, 2016

Effective Date: October 1, 2016

Related CR Transmittal #: R3597CP

Implementation Date: January 3, 2017, except some MACs may implement on October 1, 2016

Healthcare Provider Taxonomy Codes October 2016 Code Set Update

Provider Types Affected

This MLN Matters® Article is intended for physicians, other providers, and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs), including Home Health and Hospice MACs and Durable Medical Equipment MACs, for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

What You Need to Know

CR9659 instructs MACs to obtain the most recent Healthcare Provider Taxonomy Code (HPTC) set and to update their internal HPTC tables and/or reference file. MACs that have the capability to do so will implement the October 2016 HPTC set as early as October 1, 2016, for claims received on or after October 1, 2016. All MACs will implement the HPTC set by January 3, 2017.

Background

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. The institutional and professional claim electronic standard implementation guides (X12 837-I and 837-P) each require use of valid codes contained in the HPTC set when there is a need to report provider type or physician, practitioner, or supplier specialty for a claim.

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The National Uniform Claim Committee (NUCC) maintains the HPTC set for standardized classification of health care providers, and updates it twice a year with changes effective April 1 and October 1. These changes include the addition of a new code and addition of definitions to existing codes.

You should note that:

1. Valid HPTCs are those that the NUCC has approved for current use.
2. Terminated codes are not approved for use after a specific date.
3. Newly approved codes are not approved for use prior to the effective date of the code set update in which each new code first appears.
4. Specialty and/or provider type codes issued by any entity other than the NUCC are not valid.

CR9659 implements the NUCC HPTC code set that is effective on October 1, 2016, and instructs MACs to obtain the most recent HPTC set at <http://www.wpc-edi.com/codes> and use it to update their internal HPTC tables and/or reference files.

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

- New items are green
- Modified items are orange, and
- Inactive items are red

Additional Information

The official instruction, CR 9659 issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R3597CP.pdf>.

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>.

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