

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



MLN Matters® Number: MM9735

Related Change Request (CR) #: CR 9735

Related CR Release Date: August 26, 2017

Effective Date: January 1, 2017

Related CR Transmittal #: R3603CP

Implementation Date: January 3, 2017

**2017 Annual Update of Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS)
Codes for Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Consolidated Billing (CB) 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 & Hospice (HH&H) MACs and Durable Medical Equipment (DME) MACs, for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries who are in a Part A covered Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) stay.

Provider Action Needed



STOP – Impact to You

If you provide services to Medicare beneficiaries in a Part A covered SNF stay, information in Change Request (CR) 9735 could impact your payments.

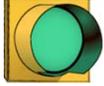


CAUTION – What You Need to Know

CR9735 provides the 2017 annual update of HCPCS Codes for SNF Consolidated Billing (SNF CB) and explains how the updates affect edits in Medicare claims processing systems. By the first week in December 2016, the new code files for Part B processing, and the new Excel and PDF files for Part A processing, will be available at <http://www.cms.gov/SNFConsolidatedBilling> and will become effective on January 1, 2017.

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GO – What You Need to Do

The provider community should read the “General Explanation of the Major Categories” PDF file located at the bottom of each year’s MAC update in order to understand the Major Categories, including additional exclusions not driven by HCPCS codes.

Background

The Common Working File (CWF) currently has edits in place for claims received for beneficiaries in a Part A covered SNF stay as well as for beneficiaries in a non-covered stay. These edits allow only those services that are excluded from consolidated billing to be separately paid.

Changes to HCPCS codes and Medicare Physician Fee Schedule designations are used to revise these edits to allow MACs to make appropriate payments in accordance with policy for SNF CB, found in the Chapter 6, Section 20.6 (Part A) and Section 110.4.1 (Part B) of the “Medicare Claims Processing Manual,” available for download at

<http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/clm104c06.pdf>.

Additional Information

The official instruction, CR9735, issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R3603CP.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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