

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



MLN Matters® Number: MM9957

Related Change Request (CR) #: CR 9957

Related CR Release Date: April 28, 2017

Effective Date: October 1, 2017

Related CR Transmittal #: R283FM and R3762CP

Implementation Date: October 2, 2017

## New Physician Specialty Code for Advanced Heart Failure and Transplant Cardiology, Medical Toxicology, and Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation and Cellular Therapy

### Provider Types Affected

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

### Provider Action Needed

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Change Request (CR) 9957 establishes new physician specialty codes for Advanced Heart Failure and Transplant Cardiology (C7), Medical Toxicology (C8), and Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation and Cellular Therapy (C9). The new codes are effective on October 1, 2017. Make sure that your billing staffs are aware of these new specialty codes.

### Background

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Physicians self-designate their Medicare physician specialty on the Medicare enrollment application (CMS-855I or CMS-855O) or Internet-based Provider Enrollment, Chain and Ownership System (PECOS) when they enroll in the Medicare program. Medicare physician specialty codes describe the specific/unique types of medicine that physicians (and certain other suppliers) practice. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) uses specialty codes for programmatic and claims processing purposes.

The CMS-855I and CMS-855O paper applications will be updated to reflect the new specialties in the future. In the interim, providers shall select the 'Undefined physician type'

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option on the enrollment application and specify the applicable specialty in the space provided.

Existing enrolled providers who want to update their specialty to reflect one of the new specialties must submit a change of information application to their MAC. Providers may submit an enrollment application to initially enroll or update their specialty within 60 days of the implementation date of the new specialties.

## Additional Information

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The official instruction, CR9957, consists of two transmittals and updates two Medicare manuals. The first transmittal updates the Medicare Claims Processing Manual and it is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/2017Downloads/R3762CP.pdf>. The second transmittal updates the Medicare Financial Management Manual and it is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/2017Downloads/R283FM.pdf>.

If you have any questions, please contact your MAC at their toll-free number. That number is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/Medicare-FFS-Compliance-Programs/Review-Contractor-Directory-Interactive-Map/>.

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