



Redesign of Hospice Periods – Additional Requirements

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Related Change Request (CR) Number: 10967

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Effective Date: January 1, 2018

Related CR Transmittal Number: R4152CP

Implementation Date: April 1, 2019

PROVIDER TYPES AFFECTED

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

PROVIDER ACTION NEEDED

CR10967 informs MACs about corrections to a variety of processing issues arising from the redesign of hospice periods in Medicare's Common Working File (CWF). It also manualizes notice and claim submission instructions relating to the redesign. Make sure that your billing staffs are aware of these changes.

BACKGROUND

Original Medicare recently implemented the systems and operational changes needed to redesign how the CWF stores and updates hospice election and benefit period information. Generally, the redesign ensured that election and revocation date information are separate from benefit period information, so the two types of information may be updated independently. Since the implementation date of the redesign, MACs have identified processing scenarios that call for additional changes. CR10967 seeks to resolve the following scenarios:

Scenario 1: Initially, Medicare instructed hospices that if a revocation date was submitted entirely in error (for instance, the beneficiary actually transferred to another hospice, rather than revoking their hospice benefit), the hospice could remove the revocation date by submitting Type of Bill (TOB) 8xB with zeroes in the Through date. This process is not working, requiring hospices to use more cumbersome correction procedures. CR10967 revises Medicare systems to remedy this situation.

Effective April 1, 2019, MACs will allow hospice providers to submit zeroes in the Through date of Notices of Termination/Revocation (NOTR - TOB 8xB) when occurrence code 56 and condition code D0 are present when the NOTR is entered via Direct Data Entry (DDE). NOTE:

Zeros in the Through date are not allowed in the 837I transaction.

Scenario 2: If hospices submit incorrect election or revocation dates, they can correct them using occurrence code 56 and condition code D0. Hospices have not been educated regarding a similar process to correct errors in transfer or change of ownership dates. With this CR, MACs will allow hospices to correct these dates using occurrence code 56 and condition code D0 on transfer notices (TOB 8xC) or change of ownership notices (8xE). MACs will return the TOB 8xC or 8xE to the provider if:

- Condition code D0 is present, but occurrence code 56 is not, or
- Occurrence code 56 is present, but condition code D0 is not.

Finally, this CR also updates Chapter 11 of the Medicare Claims Processing Manual to reflect information about the hospice redesign that was previously published only in provider education materials. The revised Chapter 11 is available as part of CR10967.

Note that CR10967 does not contain any new policy. Instead, it revises Medicare systems to administer existing hospice benefit policy more efficiently.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The official instruction, CR10967, issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/2018Downloads/R4152CP.pdf>.

If you have questions, your MACs may have more information. Find their website at <http://go.cms.gov/MAC-website-list>.

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Date of Change	Description
October 26, 2018	Initial article released.

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