



2019 Annual Update of Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Codes for Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Consolidated Billing (CB) Update

MLN Matters Number: MM10981

Related Change Request (CR) Number: 10981

Related CR Release Date: October 5, 2018

Effective Date: January 1, 2019

Related CR Transmittal Number: R4143CP

Implementation Date: January 7, 2019

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

CR 10981 makes changes to HCPCS codes and Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) designations that will be used to revise Common Working File (CWF) edits to allow MACs to make appropriate payments in accordance with policy for SNF CB in Chapter 6, Section 110.4.1 and Chapter 6, Section 20.6 in the Medicare Claims Processing Manual (<https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/clm104c06.pdf>). Make sure your billing staff are aware of these changes.

BACKGROUND

The 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 SNF CB to be paid separately. Barring any delay in the MPFS, Medicare will provide the new code files CWF by November 1, 2018.

By the first week in December 2018, Medicare will post the new code files at <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Billing/SNFConsolidatedBilling/index.html>. The files will be applicable to claims with dates of service on or after January 1, 2019, through December 31, 2019. It is important and necessary for the provider community to view the “General Explanation of the Major Categories” file located at the bottom of each year’s update in order to understand the Major Categories including additional exclusions not driven by HCPCS codes.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The official instruction, CR10981, issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/2018Downloads/R4143CP.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 5, 2018	Initial article released.

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