



MLN Matters®



Information for Medicare Fee-For-Service Health Care Professionals

MLN Matters Number: MM3240

Related Change Request (CR) #: 3240

Related CR Release Date: April 16, 2004

Effective Date: January 1, 2004

Related CR Transmittal #: R140CP

Implementation Date: May 23, 2004

Hospital Concerns Regarding Changing of Patient Status Code Due to Common Working File Edit 7272

Note: This article was updated on May 7, 2013, to reflect current Web addresses. All other information remains unchanged.

Provider Types Affected

Hospitals

Provider Action Needed



STOP – Impact to You

Hospitals will not be out of compliance for changing a patient's status codes due to Common Working File edit 7272, even if the patient's medical record does not support the change.



CAUTION – What You Need to Know

Hospitals expressed concern over changing the patient status code when they received CWF edit code 7272.



GO – What You Need to Do

Hospitals are advised to change the patient status code in order to receive reimbursement while CMS considers medical necessity issues raised by hospitals for transfers from acute care to post-acute care entities.

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Background

Hospitals have expressed concern over changing patient status codes due to CWF edit 7272 when such changes are not supported by the medical record. Hospitals are concerned about being cited for non-compliance in such cases.

Hospitals may cite CR3240 as specific guidance to them in situations where the patient status code must be changed in order to receive reimbursement while CMS considers what can be done when medical necessity issues arise with transfers from acute care to post acute care entities.

Important Dates

This instruction will be implemented on May 23, 2004 and applies to claims for discharges on or after January 1, 2004; however, keep in mind that the CWF edit is searching for related post-acute care claims back to October 1, 2003. Please refer to MLN Matters article SE0408 for more information.

Additional Information

The official instruction issued to your fiscal intermediary regarding this change may be found by going to <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R140CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

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