



# MLN Matters®



Information for Medicare Fee-For-Service Health Care Professionals

Related Change Request (CR) #: 3803

MLN Matters Number: MM3803

Related CR Release Date: April 29, 2005

Related CR Transmittal #: 543

Effective Date: October 3, 2005

Implementation Date: October 3, 2005

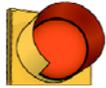
## *Healthcare Provider Taxonomy Code (HPTC) Update*

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

### Provider Types Affected

Medicare providers billing Medicare Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs)

### Provider Action Needed



#### **STOP – Impact to You**

This article includes information from CR 3803, which instructs FIs to obtain the most recent Healthcare Provider Taxonomy Code (HPTC) list, and use it to update their internal HPTC tables.



#### **CAUTION – What You Need to Know**

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requires that submitted data that is part of a named code set be valid data from that code set. Claims submitted with invalid data are not compliant with HIPAA.



#### **GO – What You Need to Do**

Because healthcare provider taxonomy is a named code set in the ANSI ASC X12N 837 Institutional Implementation Guide, Medicare FIs must validate inbound HPTCs against their internal HPTC tables. Please review the information included in the *Background* section, and be sure to stay current on all HIPAA requirements to ensure timely processing of your claims.

## Background

### Disclaimer

This article was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This article may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents.

The Healthcare Provider Taxonomy Code (HPTC) set is an external non-medical data code set used to classify health care providers according to:

- Provider type; or
- Practitioner specialty in an electronic environment (specifically within the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Accredited Standards Committee (ASC) health care transaction).

HPTCs are updated twice per year (April and October), and the HPTC list is available in the following two forms from the Washington Publishing Company website at <http://www.wpc-edi.com/codes/taxonomy>

- A free Adobe PDF download of the HPTC list; and
- An electronic representation of the HPTC list (available for purchase), which facilitates the automatic loading of the code set.

HIPAA requires that submitted data that is part of a named code set be valid data from that code set.

Claims received with invalid data are non-compliant with HIPAA and will not be processed by Medicare

### Additional Information

For complete details, please see the official instruction issued to your intermediary regarding this change. That instruction may be viewed by going to <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R543CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your intermediary at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/provider-compliance-interactive-map/index.html> on the CMS website.

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