

MLN Matters Number: MM4104

Related Change Request (CR) #: 4104

Related CR Release Date: January 24, 2006

Effective Date: April 1, 2006

Related CR Transmittal #: R818CP

Implementation Date: April 3, 2006

Smoking and Tobacco-Use Cessation Counseling Services: Common Working File (CWF) Inquiry for Providers

Note: This article was updated on February 21, 2013, to reflect current Web addresses. All other information remains unchanged.

Provider Affected

Providers billing Medicare fiscal intermediaries (FIs), including regional home health intermediaries (RHHs), for smoking and tobacco-use cessation counseling

Provider Action Needed

CR4104 announces the implementation of the capability for providers to access the CWF (part of Medicare's claims processing systems) for viewing the number of smoking and tobacco-use cessation counseling sessions a beneficiary has received.

Background

CR3929, issued July 15, 2005, implements a frequency-of-service limitations edit in the CWF for smoking and tobacco-use cessation counseling, for dates of service on or after October 1, 2005. The implementation date for this CWF edit is October 3, 2005.

Effective April 1, 2006, Medicare providers will be given the capability to view the number of smoking and tobacco-use cessation counseling sessions provided to a beneficiary. Providers will be able to access this file through the CWF, by entering the beneficiary's health insurance claim number (HICN).

Ultimately, the capability to view the number of smoking and tobacco-use cessation counseling sessions provided to a beneficiary gives providers the ability to determine a beneficiary's available coverage for this service.

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Additional Information

For complete details, please see the official instruction issued to your FI/RHHI regarding this change. That instruction may be found by going to <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R818CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your FI/RHHI 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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