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MLN Matters Number: MM6208

Related Change Request (CR) #: 6208

Related CR Release Date: December 31, 2008

Effective Date: July 1, 2008

Related CR Transmittal #: R426OTN

Implementation Date: February 2, 2009

## Adjustment for Medicare Mental Health Services

### Provider Types Affected

Physicians, clinical psychologists (CPs), clinical social workers (CSWs), nurse practitioners (NPs), clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) and physician assistants (PAs) who submit claims to Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs), Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs), or carriers, for mental health services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

### Provider Action Needed

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 6208 that identifies the CPT "Psychiatry" procedure codes that represent mental health services that have already been increased in payment by 5% effective for these "specified services" provided on or after July 1, 2008 through December 31, 2009. Be sure your billing staff is aware of this list of CPT codes that represent "specified services".

### Key Points of CR6208

#### Disclaimer

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- Section 138 of the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) of 2008 defines “specified services” as CPT procedure codes consisting of psychiatric therapeutic procedures furnished in office or other outpatient facility settings or in inpatient hospital, partial hospital, or residential care facility settings under the subcategories of services that are insight oriented, behavior modifying, or supportive psychotherapy or, interactive psychotherapy. This list of CPT codes for specified services provides contractors with a way to link the already increased payment amounts for specified services to a particular CPT code. Accordingly, the specific “Psychiatry” CPT codes affected by the 5 percent increase are as follows:
  - **Insight Oriented, Behavior Modifying and/or Supportive Psychotherapy**  
CPT codes 90804, 90805, 90806, 90807, 90808, and 90809
  - **Interactive Psychotherapy**  
CPT codes 90810, 90811, 90812, 90813, 90814, and 90815
  - **Inpatient Hospital, Partial Hospital or Residential Care Facility (Insight Oriented, Behavior Modifying and/or Supportive Psychotherapy)**  
CPT codes 90816, 90817, 90818, 90819, 90821, 90822
  - **Interactive Psychotherapy**  
CPT codes 90823, 90824, 90826, 90827, 90828, and 90829

## Background

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Medicare contractors were previously sent the payment rates that include the 5% increase for certain mental health services under the RV3D file for the 2008 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule. Accordingly, Medicare contractors should have loaded the already increased payment rates that are effective from July 1, 2008 through December 31, 2009. While contractors do not have to increase payment for these codes, they will now be able to link a CPT code with the appropriate payment amount for the code. The notification under CR #6208 provides contractors with the list of CPT codes that represent the specified services under the MIPPA provision that corresponds with the increased payment amounts already in place.

## Additional Information

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If you have questions, please contact your Medicare A/B MAC, FI or carrier at their toll-free number which may be found at

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<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website.

To see the official instruction (CR6208) issued to your Medicare Carrier, FI or A/B MAC visit <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R426OTN.pdf> on the CMS website.

**News Flash - It's Not Too Late to Get the Flu Shot.** We are in the midst of flu season and a flu vaccine is still the best way to prevent infection and the complications associated with the flu. Re-vaccination is necessary each year because flu viruses change each year. So please encourage your Medicare patients who haven't already done so to get their annual flu shot--and don't forget to immunize yourself and your staff. Protect yourself, your patients, and your family and friends. **Get Your Flu Shot – Not the Flu! Remember** - Influenza vaccine plus its administration are covered Part B benefits. Note that influenza vaccine is NOT a Part D covered drug. Health care professionals and their staff can learn more about Medicare's coverage of the influenza vaccine and other Medicare Part B covered vaccines and related provider education resources created by the CMS Medicare Learning Network (MLN), by reviewing Special Edition *MLN Matters* article SE0838 at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0838.pdf> on the CMS website.

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