



News Flash – The revised *Ambulance Fee Schedule Fact Sheet*, which provides general information about the Ambulance Fee Schedule, is now available in downloadable format from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Medicare Learning Network at http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/AmbulanceFeeSched_508.pdf on the CMS website.

MLN Matters Number: MM6372

Related Change Request (CR) #: 6372

Related CR Release Date: February 13, 2009

Effective Date: March 13, 2009

Related CR Transmittal #: R1682CP

Implementation Date: March 13, 2009

Note: This article was updated on December 17, 2012, to reflect current Web addresses. All other information remains unchanged.

Clarification of Date of Service (DOS) of Ambulance Services

Provider Types Affected

Providers and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare contractors (carriers, Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs), and/or Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs)) for ambulance services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

Impact on Providers

Providers of ambulance services should note the clarifications made by CR 6372, as noted in this article. Specifically, CR6372 clarifies the proper date of service to use on claims, especially in situations where the beneficiary dies.

Background

CR 6372 provides clarification of Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) policy towards dates of service (DOS) for ambulance services, especially in regard to a beneficiary's date of death.

The clarifications for providers of ambulance services are listed as follows:

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 date of service of an ambulance service is the date that the loaded ambulance vehicle (ground or air) departs the point of pickup, except in cases where the beneficiary is pronounced dead as noted below.
- In the case of a ground transport, if the beneficiary is pronounced dead after the vehicle is dispatched but before the (now deceased) beneficiary is loaded into the vehicle, the DOS is considered to be the date of the ambulance vehicle's dispatch.
- In the case of an air transport, if the beneficiary is pronounced dead after the aircraft takes off to pick up the beneficiary, the DOS is considered to be the date of the ambulance vehicle's takeoff.

Failure to code dates of service correctly in these situations could result in the denial of the claim.

Additional Information

The official instruction, CR 6372, issued to your carrier, FI, or A/B MAC regarding this change may be viewed at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R1682CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your carrier, FI, or A/B MAC 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.

News Flash - It's Not Too Late to Give and Get the Flu Shot! In the United States, the peak of flu season typically occurs anywhere from late December through March; however, flu season can last as late as May. Each office visit presents an opportunity for you to talk with your patients about the importance of getting an annual flu shot and a one time pneumococcal vaccination. Protect yourself, your patients, and your family and friends by getting and giving the flu shot. **Don't Get the Flu. Don't Give the Flu.** Remember - Influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations plus their administration are covered Part B benefits. Note that influenza and pneumococcal vaccines are NOT Part D covered drugs. Health care professionals and their staff can learn more about Medicare's Part B coverage of adult immunizations and related provider education resources, by reviewing Special Edition *MLN Matters* article SE0838 <http://www.cms.gov/outreach-and-education/medicare-learning-network-mln/mlnmattersarticles/downloads/SE0838.pdf> on the CMS website.

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