



News Flash – Providers will need to use ICD-10 diagnosis and inpatient procedure codes starting on October 1, 2013. And in preparation for ICD-10, starting January 1, 2012, all practice management and other applicable software programs should feature the updated Version 5010 HIPAA transaction standards. Make sure your claims continue to get paid. Talk with your software vendor, clearinghouse, or billing service NOW, and work together to make sure you'll have what you need to be ready. A successful transition to ICD-10 will be vital to transforming our nation's health care system. Visit <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/index.html> to find out how The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) can help prepare you for a smooth transition to Version 5010 and ICD-10.

MLN Matters® Number: MM7087

Related Change Request (CR) #: 7087

Related CR Release Date: August 6, 2010

Effective Date: April 20, 2010

Related CR Transmittal #: R2021CP

Implementation Date: January 3, 2011

Note: This article was updated on December 10, 2012, to reflect current Web addresses. All other information remains unchanged.

National Modifier and Condition Code to Identify Items or Services Related to the 2010 Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico

Provider Types Affected

This article is for physicians, providers, and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare contractors (carriers, Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs), and/or Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs)) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries related, in whole or in part, to the 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

Provider Action Needed

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 7087 which identifies a new modifier and a new condition code that must be used to identify items or services related to the 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Be sure your billing staff is aware of these changes. **You should begin to place the modifier or condition code on claims submitted as of January 3, 2011.**

Disclaimer

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Background

As a result of the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) plans to monitor the potential health and cost impacts of the oil spill on Medicare beneficiaries, in both the short and long-term. In order to ensure that such health care services and costs are properly identified, CMS is requiring that every Medicare Fee-For-Service claim be specifically identified if it is for an item or service furnished to a Medicare beneficiary, where the provision of such item or service is related, in whole or in part, to an illness, injury, or condition that was caused by or exacerbated by the effects, direct or indirect, of the 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico (hereafter referred to as the "Gulf oil spill") and/or circumstances related to such oil spill, including but not limited to subsequent clean-up activities.

Claims from physicians, other practitioners, and suppliers must be annotated with the modifier "CS" for each line item where the item or service is so related. Similarly, claims from institutional billers must be annotated with a condition code of "BP" when the entire claim is so related or with the "CS" modifier for each relevant line item when only certain line items are so related. The modifier and condition code are to be used for claims with dates of service on or after April 20, 2010.

The long description of the CS modifier is as follows: "Item or service related, in whole or in part, to an illness, injury, or condition that was caused by or exacerbated by the effects, direct or indirect, of the 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, including but not limited to subsequent clean-up activities."

The short description of the CS modifier is: "Gulf Oil Spill Related".

The title of the BP condition code is "Gulf oil spill related" and its definition is as follows: "This code identifies claims where the provision of all services on the claim are related, in whole or in part, to an illness, injury, or condition that was caused by or exacerbated by the effects, direct or indirect, of the 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and/or circumstances related to such spill, including but not limited to subsequent clean-up activities."

Note: CMS requests provider, physician and supplier assistance in identifying previously processed claims related to an illness, injury or condition caused or exacerbated either directly or indirectly by the 2010 Gulf oil spill. CMS encourages providers, physicians and suppliers to contact their Medicare contractor to identify services or claims – submitted and processed prior to the creation of the Gulf oil spill modifier and condition code – that should have the CS modifier and/or the BP condition code appended.

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Additional Information

If you have questions, please contact your Medicare MAC or FI 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.

The official instruction (CR7087) issued to your Medicare MAC, carrier and/or FI is available at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R2021CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

News Flash - Each Office Visit is an Opportunity. Medicare patients give many reasons for not getting their annual flu vaccination, but the fact is that there are 36,000 flu-related deaths in the United States each year, on average. More than 90% of these deaths occur in people 65 years of age and older. Please talk with your Medicare patients about the importance of getting their annual flu vaccination. This Medicare-covered preventive service will protect them for the entire flu season. And remember, vaccination is important for health care workers too, who may spread the flu to high risk patients. **Don't forget to immunize yourself and your staff. Protect your patients. Protect your family. Protect yourself. Get Your Flu Vaccine - 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. For information about Medicare's coverage of the influenza vaccine and its administration, as well as related educational resources for health care professionals and their staff, please visit http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/Flu_Products.pdf and <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prevention/Immunizations/index.html> on the CMS website.

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