



**News Flash** – The revised fact sheet titled “Swing Bed” (November 2010), which provides information about the requirements hospitals and Critical Access Hospitals must meet in order to be granted approval to furnish either acute or Skilled Nursing Facility level care via a swing bed agreement, is now available in downloadable format from the Medicare Learning Network® at <http://www.cms.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/SwingBedFactsheet.pdf> on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website.

MLN Matters® Number: MM7244

Related Change Request (CR) #: 7244

Related CR Release Date: January 21, 2011

Effective Date: July 1, 2011

Related CR Transmittal #: 8420TN

Implementation Date: July 5, 2011

## Off-Cycle Release of the Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) Pricer to Accept Diagnosis Codes and to Pass a Low-Volume Payment Amount

### Provider Types Affected

This article is for Inpatient Acute Care Hospitals that bill Medicare Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs) or Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

### Provider Action Needed

Make sure your billing and coding staffs are aware of these changes and properly codes all appropriate diagnosis codes on every claim.

### Background

CR7244 impacts certain hospitals that qualify for the low-volume payment adjustment under the Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems (IPPS). The low-volume payment amount calculated by the IPPS Pricer is an estimated interim payment. This estimated interim low-volume payment amount will be adjusted at cost report settlement, if any of the payment amounts upon which the low-volume payment amount is based are recalculated at cost report settlement (for example payments for Disproportionate Share Hospital, Indirect Medical Education, or

#### Disclaimer

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Federal rate versus Hospital Specific rate payments for Sole Community Hospitals / Medicare Dependent Hospitals).

CR7244 contains changes to accommodate future new technology payment logic. The IPPS Pricer is being modified to accept the 25 diagnosis code fields (one principal plus 24 secondary diagnosis codes) on the bill record.

Lastly, CMS is revising the Fiscal Year (FY) 2003 & FY 2004 IPPS Pricer to assign a different Labor Share Percentage for certain providers for future adjustments, which will be provided in future instructions to the Medicare contractors.

## Additional Information

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The official instruction, CR7244 issued to your FI or MAC regarding this change may be viewed at <http://www.cms.gov/transmittals/downloads/R842OTN.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your FI or MAC at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website.

**News Flash – Get Your Flu Vaccine - Not the Flu. Don't forget to immunize yourself and your staff. Protect your patients. Protect your family. Protect yourself.** While seasonal flu outbreaks can happen as early as October, flu activity usually peaks in January. This year's vaccine will protect against three different flu viruses, including the H1N1 virus that caused so much illness last flu season. The risks for complications, hospitalizations, and deaths from the flu are higher among individuals aged 65 years and older. Medicare pays for the seasonal flu vaccine and its administration for seniors and others with Medicare with no co-pay or deductible. Health care workers, who may spread the flu to high risk patients, should get vaccinated too. **Remember** – the influenza vaccine plus its administration are covered Part B benefits. Note that the 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 staff, please visit [http://www.cms.gov/MLNProducts/Downloads/Flu\\_Products.pdf](http://www.cms.gov/MLNProducts/Downloads/Flu_Products.pdf) and <http://www.cms.gov/AdultImmunizations> on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website.

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