

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



News Flash – Are you short on time? The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has created podcasts from four popular ICD-10 National Provider Calls. These podcasts are perfect for use in the office, on the go in your car, or your portable media player or smart phone. Listen to all of the podcasts from a call or just the ones that fit your needs. To access the podcasts, visit the CMS Sponsored ICD-10 Teleconferences webpage located at <http://www.cms.gov/ICD10/Tel10/list.asp> on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website.

MLN Matters® Number: MM7564

Related Change Request (CR) #: 7564

Related CR Release Date: October 27, 2011

Effective Date: January 1, 2011

Related CR Transmittal #: R2328CP

Implementation Date: April 2, 2012

Claim Adjustment Reason Code (CARC) Used for Therapy Claims Subject to the Multiple Procedure Payment Reduction (MPPR)

Provider Types Affected

Providers who bill Medicare contractors (Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs), Regional Home Health Intermediaries (RHHIs), and A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs)) for therapy services provided to Medicare beneficiaries are affected.

What You Need to Know

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 7564, which revises the remittance advice coding used when claim payments are subject to a multiple procedure payment reduction. Medicare contractors will use the following Claim Adjustment Reason Code (CARC) on the remittance advice for service lines for which they have applied the Multiple Procedure Payment Reduction (MPPR): **Code 59: Processed based on multiple or concurrent procedure rules.**

This new code will make payment adjustments due to the MPPR more easily recognized on your remittance advices. This article contains no new policy. Be sure your billing staffs are aware of these changes.

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Background

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued Change Request (CR) 7050, "Multiple Procedure Payment Reduction (MPPR) for Selected Therapy Services," on December 21, 2010. CR7050 implemented a MPPR to the Practice Expense (PE) payment of select therapy services paid under the Medicare physician fee schedule. MM7050, which explains that instruction, is available at <http://www.cms.gov/MLN MattersArticles/downloads/MM7050.pdf> on the CMS website. That instruction required the use of CARC 45 for the MPPR action. However, CARC 45 is also used for other payment adjustments and if both the MPPR and another reduction were applied to the same line item on a claim, CARC 45 would not readily distinguish the MPPR from the other reduction.

This article explains that Medicare contractors are instructed to use CARC 59, defined as "Processed based on multiple or concurrent procedure rules, (For example multiple surgery or diagnostic imaging, concurrent anesthesia)," on the remittance advice for service lines for which they have applied the MPPR methodology described in CR7050.

Additional Information

The official instruction, CR7564, issued to your FI, RHHI, and A/B MAC regarding this change, may be viewed at <http://www.cms.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R2328CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your FI, RHHI, or A/B 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 - Vaccination is the Best Protection Against the Flu. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is encouraging everyone 6 months of age and older to get vaccinated against the seasonal flu. 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. And remember, vaccination is particularly important for healthcare workers, 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 the Flu Vaccination – Not the Flu.* Remember – The flu vaccine plus its administration are covered Part B benefits. CMS has posted the 2011-2012 seasonal flu vaccine payment limits at http://www.CMS.gov/McrPartBDrugAvgSalesPrice/10_VaccinesPricing.asp. Note that the flu vaccine is NOT a Part D-covered drug. For more information on coverage and billing of the flu vaccine and its administration, as well as related educational provider resources, visit http://www.CMS.gov/MLNProducts/35_PreventiveServices.asp and <http://www.cms.gov/immunizations>.

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