

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



News Flash – Effective January 1, 2012, Diversified Service Options, Inc, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida Inc, acquired Highmark Medicare Services from its parent company, Highmark Inc. As a result, Highmark Medicare Services changed its name to Novitas Solutions, Inc. Novitas will continue to be the Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) for the J12 jurisdiction and will also continue as the Section 1011 Administrative Contractor. In the near future, the Highmark website will be changing to <http://www.Novitas-Solutions.com> on the Internet.

MLN Matters® Number: MM7802

Related Change Request (CR) #: CR 7802

Related CR Release Date: March 30, 2012

Effective Date: July 1, 2012

Related CR Transmittal #:R2434CP

Implementation Date: July 2, 2012

Quarterly Update to Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) Edits, Version 18.2, Effective July 1, 2012

Provider Types Affected

This MLN Matters® Article is intended for physicians submitting claims to Medicare Carriers and/or A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

Provider Action Needed

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 7802 which provides a reminder for physicians to take note of the quarterly updates to Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) edits. The last quarterly release of the edit module was issued in April, 2012.

Background

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) developed the National Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) to promote national correct coding methodologies and to control improper coding that leads to inappropriate payment in Part B claims.

Disclaimer

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The coding policies developed are based on coding conventions defined in the:

- American Medical Association's (AMA's) "Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) Manual";
- National and local policies and edits;
- Coding guidelines developed by national societies;
- Analysis of standard medical and surgical practice; and by
- Review of current coding practice.

The latest package of CCI edits, Version 18.2, is effective July 1, 2012, and includes all previous versions and updates from January 1, 1996, to the present. It will be organized in two tables:

- Column 1/Column 2 Correct Coding Edits, and
- Mutually Exclusive Code (MEC) Edits.

Additional information about the CCI, including the current CCI and Mutually Exclusive Code (MEC) edits, is available at <http://www.cms.gov/NationalCorrectCodInitEd> on the CMS website.

Additional Information

The CCI and MEC file formats are defined in the "Medicare Claims Processing Manual," (Chapter 23, Section 20.9) which is available at <http://www.cms.gov/manuals/downloads/clm104c23.pdf> on the CMS website.

The official instruction, CR7802, issued to your carrier or and A/B MAC regarding this change may be viewed at <http://www.cms.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R2434CP.pdf> release on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your carrier 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.

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