

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



MLN Connects™ National Provider Call: National Partnership to Improve Dementia Care in Nursing Homes - *Tuesday, December 9; 1:30-3pm ET* -During this MLN Connects Call, speakers will discuss innovative efforts from State-based Alzheimer's Association Chapters related to train-the-trainer programs, as well as the implementation of the Comfort First Approach in nursing homes. CMS subject matter experts will provide National Partnership updates and discuss next steps for the initiative. [Register](#) or visit the [December 9](#) call web page for more information.

MLN Matters® Number: MM8985

Related Change Request (CR) #: CR 8985

Related CR Release Date: November 14, 2014

Effective Date: January 1, 2015

Related CR Transmittal #: R3121CP

Implementation Date: January 5, 2015

## 2015 Annual Update to the Therapy Code List

### Provider Types Affected

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This MLN Matters® Article is intended for physicians, therapists, and other providers who submit claims to Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs), including Home Health & Hospice MACs, for outpatient rehabilitation therapy services that are provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

### Provider Action Needed

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Change Request (CR) 8985 updates the therapy code list for Calendar Year (CY) 2015 by adding two "Sometimes Therapy" codes, and deleting two current codes. The update to the therapy code list reflects those made in the CY 2015 Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System and Current Procedural Terminology, Fourth Edition (HCPCS/CPT-4). Make sure your billing staff are aware of these changes.

#### 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. CPT only copyright 2013 American Medical Association.

## Background

The Social Security Act (Section 1834(k)(5)) (see [http://www.ssa.gov/OP\\_Home/ssact/title18/1834.htm](http://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title18/1834.htm) on the Internet) requires that all claims for outpatient rehabilitation therapy services and all comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facility (CORF) services be reported using a uniform coding system. The Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System/Current Procedural Terminology, 2015 Edition (HCPCS/CPT-4) is the coding system used for the reporting of these services.

CR 8985 updates the list of codes that sometimes, or always, describe therapy services. The additions, changes, and deletions to the therapy code list reflect those made in the CY 2014 and 2015 Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System and Current Procedural Terminology, Fourth Edition (HCPCS/CPT-4).

The therapy code listing can be found at [http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Billing/Therapy\\_Services/index.html](http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Billing/Therapy_Services/index.html) on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website.

Specifically, CR 8985 updates the code list by adding HCPCS Codes 97607 (Neg press wnd tx) and 97608 (Neg press wound tx >50 cm) to the "sometimes therapy" codes and deleting HCPCS Codes G0456 and G0457 from the 2015 therapy code list. Code 97608 replaces current code G0457 effective January 1, 2015 and 97607 replaces current code G0456 effective January 1, 2015.

## Additional Information

The official instruction, [CR 8985](#), issued to your MAC regarding this change, is available on the CMS website.

**Seasonal Flu Vaccinations** - Generally, Medicare Part B covers one flu vaccination and its administration per flu season for beneficiaries without co-pay or deductible. Now is the perfect time to vaccinate beneficiaries. Health care providers are encouraged to get a flu vaccine to help protect themselves from the flu and to keep from spreading it to their family, co-workers, and patients. Note: The flu vaccine is not a Part D-covered drug. For more information on coverage and billing of the influenza vaccine and its administration, please visit [MLN Matters® Article #MM8890](#), "Influenza Vaccine Payment Allowances - Annual Update for 2014-2015 Season" and [MLN Matters® Article #SE1431](#), "2014-2015 Influenza (Flu) Resources for Health Care Professionals."

While some providers may offer flu vaccines, those that don't can help their patients locate flu vaccines within their local community. The [HealthMap Vaccine Finder](#) is a free online service where users can search for locations offering flu and other adult vaccines. If you provide vaccination services and would like to be included in the HealthMap Vaccine Finder database, [register](#) for an account to submit your information in the database. Also, visit the CDC [Influenza \(Flu\)](#) web page for the latest information on flu including the CDC 2014-2015 recommendations for the prevention and control of influenza.

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