

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



Get Your Patients Off to a Healthy Start in 2015 with the *Medicare Annual Wellness Visit* – a yearly office visit that focuses on preventive health, and the *Initial Preventive Physical Examination*, commonly known as the "Welcome to Medicare" Preventive Visit – a one-time service for newly-enrolled beneficiaries. [Read more.](#)

MLN Matters® Number: SE1503

Related Change Request (CR) #: CR 8863

Related CR Release Date: N/A

Effective Date: January 1, 2015

Related CR Transmittal #: N/A

Implementation Date: January 5, 2015

Continued Use of Modifier 59 after January 1, 2015

Provider Types Affected

This MLN Matters® Article is intended for physicians, providers, and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) and Durable Medical Equipment (DME) MACs for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

What You Need to Know

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) implemented Change Request (CR) 8863 on January 5, 2015, effective January 1, 2015. This CR established four (4) new HCPCS modifiers (**XE, XP, XS, XU**) to define specific subsets of the -59 modifier, a modifier used to define a "Distinct Procedural Service". These modifiers are collectively referred to as -X {EPSU} modifiers. Please note that providers may continue to use the -59 modifier after January 1, 2015, in any instance in which it was correctly used prior to January 1, 2015. The initial CR establishing the modifiers was designed to inform system developers that healthcare systems would need to accommodate the new modifiers. Additional guidance and education as to the appropriate use of the new -X {EPSU} modifiers will be forthcoming as CMS continues to introduce the modifiers in a gradual and controlled fashion. That guidance will include additional descriptive information about the

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new modifiers. CMS will identify situations in which a specific –X {EPSU} modifier will be required and will publish specific guidance before implementing edits or audits.

CR 8863 states that providers who wish to use the new modifiers may use them in accordance with their published definitions, and the X modifiers will function within CMS systems in the same manner as the 59 modifier, bypassing Procedure-to-Procedure (PTP) edits with a modifier indicator of “1,” for example. A modifier indicator of “1” indicates that NCCI-associated modifiers may be used to bypass an edit under appropriate circumstances.

Additional Information

CR 8863 is available at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R1422OTN.pdf> and a related MLN Matters® article is available at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/MM8863.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your MAC at their toll-free number. That number is available at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Net-work-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/index.html> under - How Does It Work.

Inquiries about CR 8863 (Specific Modifiers for Distinct Procedural Services) and any MLN Matters® article associated with the new X Modifiers, should be sent to the following email address: NCCIPTMUE@cms.hhs.gov.

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