

MLN Matters Number: MM4202

Related Change Request (CR) #: 4202

Related CR Release Date: February 9, 2006

Effective Date: July 1, 2006

Related CR Transmittal #: R843CP

Implementation Date: July 3, 2006

Inpatient Admission Followed by Discharge or Death Prior to Room Assignment

Note: This article was updated on October 23, 2012, to reflect current Web addresses. All other information remains unchanged.

Provider Types Affected

Providers billing fiscal intermediaries (FIs) for hospital room and board charges

Provider Action Needed

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 4202, which provides billing instructions when there is an inpatient admission and discharge or death prior to a room being assigned and/or occupied.

Background

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is updating the policy for billing room and board charges prior to room assignment. The American Hospital Association (AHA) requested that CMS issue this clarification.

Change Request (CR) 4202 revises the Medicare Claims Processing Manual (Publication 100-04, Chapter 3, Section 40.2.2) and directs that a patient of a hospital is considered an inpatient upon issuance of written doctors orders to that effect. If a patient either dies or is discharged prior to being assigned and/or occupying a room, a hospital may enter an appropriate room and board charge on the claim. Hospitals are not required to enter a room and board charge, but failure to do so may have a minimal impact on future DRG weight calculations.

CR4202 instructs your intermediary to pay inpatient hospital claims with room and board charges for a patient who has either died or is discharged prior to being assigned and/or occupying a room, and not deny claims if the hospital does not

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submit a room and board charge for a patient who has either died or is discharged prior to being assigned and/or occupying a room.

Additional Information

For complete details, please see the official instruction issued to your intermediary regarding this change. That instruction may be viewed at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R843CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your intermediary at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/provider-compliance-interactive-map/index.html> on the CMS website.

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