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Flu Shot Reminder

It's Not Too Late to Give and Get a Flu Shot

The peak of flu season typically occurs between late December and March; however, flu season can last until May. **Protect yourself, your patients, and your family and friends by getting and giving the flu shot.** Each office visit presents an opportunity for you to talk with your patients about the importance of getting an annual flu shot and a lifetime pneumococcal vaccination. Remember - influenza and pneumococcal vaccination and their administration are covered Part B benefits. Note that influenza and pneumococcal vaccines are NOT Part D covered drugs. For more information about Medicare's coverage of adult immunizations and educational resources, <http://www.cms.gov/outreach-and-education/medicare-learning-network-mln/mlnmattersarticles/downloads/SE0667.pdf> on the CMS website.

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Implementation Date: October 1, 2007

Note: This article was updated on June 5, 2013, to reflect current Web addresses. This article was previously revised on March 9, 2007, to reflect a revised CR Transmittal number and CR release date (see above). Also the Web address for accessing CR5208 has been changed. All other information remains the same.

Use of Nine-Digit ZIP codes for Determining the Correct Payment Locality for Services Paid Under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) and Anesthesia Services

Provider Types Affected

Physicians and providers who bill Medicare contractors (carriers, fiscal intermediaries (FI), or Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs)) for services paid under the MPFS and for anesthesia services

Provider Action Needed

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**STOP – Impact to You**

Effective for dates of service on or after October 1, 2007, for services rendered in the ZIP code areas displayed in Table 1 (below), if you do not include the full nine-digit ZIP code on your claims for services paid by Medicare carriers or MACs under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) and for anesthesia services, your claim will be treated as unprocessable.

Effective for dates of service on or after October 1, 2007, for services rendered in the ZIP code areas displayed in Table 1, if a valid full nine-digit ZIP code is not present on the Provider Master File Address ZIP code, services paid by the FIs/MACs under the MPFS and for anesthesia services, your claim will be treated as unprocessable.

**CAUTION – What You Need to Know**

Effective October 1, 2007, for services rendered in the areas defined by the ZIP codes in Table 1, Medicare will require that you provide the nine-digit ZIP code for the location where services were rendered on your claims for services paid by carriers/MACs under the MPFS and for anesthesia services. CMS is implementing this requirement to prevent payment issues generated by ZIP codes that cross payment localities.

Effective October 1, 2007, for services rendered in the areas defined by the nine-digit ZIP codes in Table 1, Medicare will require a valid nine-digit ZIP code on the Provider File Master Address for services paid by the FIs/MACs under the MPFS and for anesthesia services.

**GO – What You Need to Do**

Make sure that your billing staffs are aware that if you provide services paid by carriers/MACs under the MPFS or anesthesia services in a payment locality whose ZIP code appears in Table 1, below; effective for dates of service on or after October 1, 2007, they must include the nine-digit ZIP code in the claim.

Make sure that if you provide services paid by FIs/MACs under the MPFS or anesthesia services in a payment locality whose ZIP code appears in Table 1, a valid nine-digit ZIP code is present on the Provider File Master Address. If a valid nine-digit ZIP code is not on the file, submit a CMS-855A, the Medicare Enrollment Application, with a valid nine-digit ZIP code.

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Background

Reimbursement Based on the Location Where the Service Was Rendered

Where you actually provide services paid under the MPFS and anesthesia services determines the amount of your reimbursement. More specifically, Medicare reimburses you for these services based on the locality, which is determined from the ZIP code that is on the claim submitted to carriers/MACs. The ZIP code on the Provider File Master Address is used to determine the locality on the claims submitted to FIs/MACs.

The ZIP codes that your Medicare contractors use to determine the payment locality come from the CMS ZIP code file, which conforms to the United States Postal Service convention of assigning ZIP codes into dominant counties.

CMS has become aware that some ZIP codes cover more than one payment locality; in some cases, while the service may actually be rendered in one county, because of the ZIP code it may be assigned into a different county. This causes a payment issue when each of the counties is associated with a different payment locality and therefore a different payment amount.

Nine-Digit ZIP Codes

CR5208, from which this article was taken, corrects this issue. Effective October 1, 2007, you will have to include the full nine-digit ZIP code for anesthesia services and for services paid under the MPFS by carriers/MACs when those services are provided in a ZIP code area that crosses payment localities (see Table 1, below). Note that services on the Purchased Diagnostic Abstract File are all payable under the MPFS, thus the 9-digit ZIP code requirement also applies to those services.

There are some important details that you should know:

Exceptions

There are two instances in which you do not need to submit the nine-digit ZIP code in claims for services payable under the MPFS and for anesthesia services:

- You may continue to submit claims with five-digit ZIP codes if you provide these services in ZIP code areas that do not cross payment localities (not listed in Table 1);
- There is no current requirement for the submission of a ZIP code when the place of service (POS) is "Home" or any other places of service that your Medicare contractor currently considers to be the same as "Home."

As necessary, CMS will provide quarterly updates of the list of the ZIP codes that cross localities.

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You should submit your claims for ambulance and lab services using five-digit ZIP codes, as your carrier/MAC will continue to use the five-digit codes for determining payment.

Claims for ambulance services will continue to be priced using 5-digit ZIP codes by the FIs/MACs. Laboratory services will continue to be priced by the FIs/MACs using the locality for non-fee based services.

Master Address

FIs determine locality based upon the ZIP code of the provider's physical address, which, including the ZIP code is stored on the provider file as the master address.

Effective July 1, 2007, institutional providers, with a ZIP code displayed in Table 1, will need to submit a valid nine-digit ZIP code on the CMS 855-A when the Provider File Master Address ZIP code is 5-digits, the last 4-digits of a 9-digit ZIP code are zeroes, or the last 4-digits of a 9-digit ZIP code do not match a 4-digit extension on the ZIP code file.

Claims Returned as Unprocessable

To re-emphasize, if you provide only a 5-digit ZIP code on a claim for services payable under the MPFS and for anesthesia services that you provide in one of the ZIP code areas that crosses localities (and therefore requires a nine-digit ZIP code to be processed), your carrier/MAC will return this claim as unprocessable. Returned claims will have the following Remittance Advice and Remark Code messages:

- **Adjustment Reason Code 16** – Claim/service lacks information which is needed for adjudication. Additional information is supplied using remittance advice remark codes whenever appropriate.
- **Remark Code MA 130** – Your claim contains incomplete and/or invalid information, and no appeals rights are afforded because the claim is unprocessable. Please submit a new claim with the complete/correct information.
- **Remark Code MA114** – "Missing/incomplete information on where the services were furnished."

Effective for dates of service on or after October 1, 2007, if an invalid ZIP code is present on the Provider File Master Address for claims payable under the MPFS and for anesthesia services provided in one of the ZIP code areas that crosses localities, your FI/MAC will return the claim as unprocessable.

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Table 1 - ZIP Codes that Cross Payment Localities by State

State	ZIP Code			
Arkansas (AR)	71749	72338	72444	
	71953	72395	72644	
Arizona (AZ)	85534			
California (CA)	90265	91362	94303	95377
	90623	91709	94514	95391
	90630	91766	94515	95476
	90631	91792	94550	95616
	90638	93013	94571	95690
	91304	93243	95023	95694
	91307	93252	95033	96056
	91311	93536	95076	
	91361	93560	95304	
Delaware (DE)	19952	19973		
Florida (FL)	32948	33920	34141	34972
	33440	33955	34142	34974
	33917	33972		
Georgia (GA)	30011	30135	30223	30519
	30014	30143	30224	30534
	30019	30153	30228	30548
	30025	30178	30233	30559
	30040	30179	30234	30620
	30055	30180	30248	30641
	30056	30183	30268	30650
	30101	30184	30276	30663
	30102	30185	30506	30730
	30107	30187	30517	31029
	30120	30205	30518	
	Idaho (ID)	83342	83856	
Illinois (IL)	60007	60407	60544	62280
	60010	60410	60554	62286
	60013	60416	60559	62355
	60015	60423	60935	62361
	60021	60431	60940	62366
	60042	60432	60950	62538
	60050	60439	62031	62546
	60051	60447	62044	62553
	60074	60449	62052	62557
	60081	60464	62053	62558
	60089	60466	62054	62630
	60090	60467	62075	62638
	60102	60468	62080	62643
	60103	60475	62081	62667
	60118	60477	62082	62690
	60120	60481	62083	62692
	60126	60504	62231	62801
	60133	60506	62237	62808
	60140	60511	62238	62831
	60142	60521	62253	62877

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State	ZIP Code			
	60151	60523	62262	62882
	60172	60527	62263	62883
	60178	60538	62268	62907
	60401	60543	62272	62916
Iowa (IA)	51630	52542	52626	
	51640	52573	52761	
Kansas (KS)	66012	66021	66083	66109
	66013	66025	66102	66112
	66018			
Kentucky (KY)	40965	42079	42223	42602
Massachusetts (MA)	01432	01930	02339	02762
	01434	02324		
Maryland (MD)	20601	20736	20871	21776
	20607	20754	21757	21787
	20613	20842	21771	21791
	20714			
Michigan (MI)	48005	48166	48380	48455
	48041	48169	48428	48462
	48062	48178	48430	49229
	48118	48189	48438	49236
	48137	48353	48439	49240
	48160	48371	48442	49285
Minnesota (MN)	56136	56164	56220	56744
	56144	56219	56257	
Missouri (MO)	63005	63071	64034	64082
	63015	63072	64048	64147
	63020	63087	64061	64439
	63023	63348	64062	64444
	63028	63357	64070	64484
	63030	63535	64075	64492
	63041	63548	64077	64733
	63060	63627	64080	64784
	63069	64024		
Montana (MT)	59030	59847		
Nebraska (NE)	68719	68777	69212	69352
	68755	69168	69216	69358
Nevada (NV)	89061			
New Hampshire (NH)	03579	03813		
New Jersey (NJ)	07735	08512	08530	08558
	07747	08525	08540	08560
New York (NY)	10505	11001	11096	12434
	10541	11040	12167	13750
	10579			
North Dakota (ND)	58030	58053	58436	58623
	58041	58225	58439	58653
	58043	58413	58568	
Oregon (OR)	97002	97064	97128	97231
	97014	97071	97132	97362

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State	ZIP Code			
	97032	97119	97140	97375
	97056	97123		
Pennsylvania (PA)	17527	18070	19344	19505
	17555	18077	19362	19512
	18036	18092	19363	19520
	18041	18951	19464	19525
	18042	19087	19504	19543
	18055	19310		
South Dakota (SD)	57005	57255	57446	57642
	57026	57260	57457	57645
	57030	57270	57523	57648
	57034	57430	57632	57660
	57068	57437	57638	57717
	57078	57441	57641	57724
Tennessee (TN)	37317	37391	37821	38326
Texas (TX)	75007	75851	77430	78613
	75019	75856	77444	78615
	75028	75862	77447	78617
	75044	76008	77450	78620
	75048	76020	77474	78621
	75050	76028	77477	78634
	75051	76036	77480	78641
	75052	76051	77484	78652
	75054	76052	77485	78654
	75067	76063	77489	78657
	75080	76065	77493	78663
	75082	76071	77494	78664
	75088	76092	77511	78669
	75089	76108	77520	78727
	75098	76126	77521	78728
	75104	76177	77532	78729
	75115	76262	77535	78734
	75125	77047	77539	78736
	75146	77053	77546	78737
	75148	77082	77550	78738
	75154	77083	77568	78750
	75159	77085	77581	78759
	75182	77099	77583	78933
	75248	77339	77622	78940
	75252	77357	77656	78950
	75287	77365	77665	78954
	75839	77381	77833	79835
	75844	77382	78610	79922
	75847	77426	78612	79932
Virginia (VA)	20120	20135		
Washington (WA)	98019	98072	98177	99033
	98022	98077	98251	99128
	98047	98092	98354	
Wisconsin (WI)	54540			

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State	ZIP Code			
Wyoming (WY)	82063	82716	82930	83120
	82082	82725	83114	83127
	82240	82731		

Additional Information

You can find more information about the use of nine-digit ZIP codes for determining the correct payment locality for anesthesia services and services paid under the (MPFS) by going to CR5208, located at

<http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R1193CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

You might also want to look at updated Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Publication 100-04, Chapter 1 (General Billing Requirements), Section 10.1.1 (Payment Jurisdiction among Local Carriers for Services Paid Under the Physician Fee Schedule and Anesthesia Services) which you will find as an attachment to this CR.

If you have any questions, please contact your carrier/FI/MAC 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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