



**News Flash - Your Medicare Payments Could Be Reduced If The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Needs To Collect Overdue Taxes That You Owe** - The Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997, Section 1024, authorizes the IRS to reduce certain federal payments, including Medicare payments, to allow collection of overdue taxes. Should you owe such taxes and your payments are reduced, your remittance advice will reflect a provider level adjustment code (PLB) of "WU" in the PLB03-1 data field. For more information, please see MLN Matters Article #MM6125 available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6125.pdf> on the CMS website.

MLN Matters Number: MM6220

Related Change Request (CR) #: 6220

Related CR Release Date: October 3, 2008

Effective Date: January 1, 2009

Related CR Transmittal #: R1608CP

Implementation Date: January 5, 2009

## **2009 Annual Update of Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Codes for Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Consolidated Billing (CB) for the Common Working File (CWF), Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs), Medicare Carriers and Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs)**

### **Provider Types Affected**

Physicians, providers, and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare contractors (carriers, DME Medicare Administrative Contractors (DME MACs), Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs), and/or Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries who are in a Part A covered SNF stay.

### **Provider Action Needed**



#### **STOP – Impact to You**

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 6220 which provides the 2009 annual update of Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Codes

#### **Disclaimer**

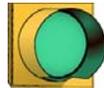
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for Skilled Nursing Facility Consolidated Billing (SNF CB) and how the updates affect edits in Medicare claims processing systems.



#### CAUTION – What You Need to Know

Physicians and providers are advised that, by the first week in December 2008, new code files will be posted at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/SNFConsolidatedBilling/> on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website. Institutional providers note that this site will include new Excel® and PDF format files. It is **important and necessary** for the provider community to view the "General Explanation of the Major Categories" PDF file located at the bottom of each year's FI update listed at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/SNFConsolidatedBilling/> on the CMS website in order to understand the Major Categories including additional exclusions not driven by HCPCS codes.



#### GO – What You Need to Do

See the Background and Additional Information Sections of this article for further details regarding these changes.

## Background

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Medicare's claims processing systems currently have edits in place for claims received for beneficiaries in a Part A covered SNF stay as well as for beneficiaries in a non-covered stay. Changes to Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes and Medicare Physician Fee Schedule designations are used to revise these edits to allow carriers, A/B MACs, DME MACs, and FIs to make appropriate payments in accordance with policy for Skilled Nursing Facility Consolidated Billing (SNF CB) contained in the Medicare Claims Processing Manual (Chapter 6, Section 110.4.1 for carriers and Chapter 6, Section 20.6 for FIs). (This manual is available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Manuals/IOM/list.asp> on the CMS website.) These edits only allow services that are excluded from CB to be separately paid by Medicare contractors.

## Additional Information

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The official instruction, CR 6220, issued to your carrier, FI, A/B MAC, and DME MAC regarding this change may be viewed at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1608CP.pdf> on the CMS website. If you have any questions, please contact your carrier, FI, A/B MAC, or DME MAC at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website.

### Disclaimer

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