

## **CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES**

**Moderator: Hazeline Roulac**  
**November 9, 2005**  
**12:30 p.m. CT**

Operator: Thank you for standing by and welcome to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services CCI edits conference call. This conference is being recorded and transcribed.

At this time, I would like to turn the conference over to Ms. Hazeline Roulac. Ms. Roulac, please go ahead.

Hazeline Roulac: Thank you, Jennifer. Welcome to the second contractor training conference call focused on CCI edits, as they will apply to providers of outpatient rehabilitation therapy services effective January 1, 2006. I'm Hazeline Roulac. I'm with the Provider Communication Group, Division of Provider Information, Planning and Development, at CMS in Baltimore.

The training today is a follow-up to the first training that took place on October the sixth. If you were not able to attend that session, the written and audio transcripts are posted to the contractor training web page.

The training today is for Medicare contractors and CMS staff. The training today is not intended for providers. If providers are on the line, we do ask that you disconnect at this time.

Based on feedback received from the October training session we have updated the slide presentation that was used and we will be referring to it during this training. So, if you have not downloaded it you may want to do it before we get started.

The presentation is located on the Medlearn Medicare Contractor Training for CMS Initiatives web page. The URL is [www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/cmsinit.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/cmsinit.asp). There are notes to the slides, so please make sure you open the slides in notes page view and print the notes pages.

At the end of this training, we will open the call for a Q&A session.

Before we begin, I would like everyone here at Central Office to go around the room, introduce yourself and identify your division.

Pam West: Hi. I'm Pam West and I'm with the Division of Practitioner Services in CMM.

Yvonne Young: Yvonne Young. I'm with the Provider Billing Group, Division of Institutional Claims Processing.

Geanelle Griffith: Geanelle Griffith with the Provider Communications Group, Division of Provider Information, Planning and Development.

Robin Phillips: Robin Phillips with the Provider Communications Group, Division of Provider Information, Planning and Development.

Hazeline Roulac: Thank you. At this time, I will now turn the call over to Pam West who will begin the training.

Pam West: Thank you, Hazeline. I first wanted to let everyone know that the Joint Signature Memo has been released; I believe it was on November seventh and it contained the provider notice for the FIs to use on the listserv. I wanted to explain that because both Carriers and FIs were invited to this call that the Joint Signature Memo went only to the FIs since their providers are the ones that are directly affected.

Should the Carriers wish to access the PowerPoint for the provider call, or prior to that time, they will be able to reach it either on one of the two websites: the contractor training website or the coding educational resources website. So – but I did want to explain that the Joint Signature Memo went just to the FIs. I'd like to remind everyone that for the provider call, everyone will – must register for the call, so that's very important to get that word out.

I'd like to also let you know that the PowerPoint that you will see today is still in draft form and there are some errors in it that I will try to note as I go through each slide.

In order to prepare for today's call I did review the transcript and also I received one comment from a contractor and I would like to make sure that everyone thinks that their concerns were addressed and if they are not, please let me know during the question and answer session.

For today's call we'll go over each PowerPoint slide that – that I have changed. We'll do that in numerical order and I would like to begin with the cover page.

So the cover page was changed because, it inadvertently had said that it applied to all outpatient providers of therapy services. This was changed because on the last call the question came up about the Critical Access Hospitals to which this does not apply. So this was changed just to clarify that point.

And now we're going to skip to page or slide number four. And basically on this slide, on the last bullet in the text, I just included the affected providers into the last bullet.

On slide five, I had mentioned this at the last call--that I was going to change this to clarify that the last two bullets talk about the CCI edits and how they are made available to the contractors. The third bullet states, "The NCCI contractor provides a file to CMS, which is then made available for contractors to download."

The fourth bullet says, "The OCE software contractor installs a subset of the CCI edits in the OCE that is used for processing claims by the FIs."

Slide – skip to slide number seven. This slide was modified, in the box for the outpatient bill types and just to include them in the order in which they appear. We did not have the bill types before. I thought that was important.

In the text the last bullet was rewritten for clarity purposes and we also received comments from folks to say that they wanted us to emphasize that the provider claims were from – were for all services by these providers, not just the therapy services. They would apply to all services billed under the applicable bill types. So, I will be adding two more bullets to this page to emphasize that the services are for all services on the claims that will be subject to the CCI edits.

And, in addition the comment that we received was concerned about the SNFs and how some of their ancillary services are billed by some of the larger SNFs, particularly the laboratory services and the radiology services. But, as you know, the SNF is only required to bill their therapy services directly.

So – but this is important. We will be adding them to a notice--adding the clinical laboratories to a notice that we will be sending out about the provider calls. So thank you for mentioning that. We will put that on the slide, as well.

The next slide is eight, and in this slide we had deleted the reference to the example that crossed the – spanned the calendar year, that was brought to our attention that the FIs do instruct, as you know, the providers to split their claims at the year end, so that has been deleted from this slide.

The next slide, where revisions were made is nine. And both in the box and in the next to the last bullet, just added the words rehab agencies, as a lot of providers think of themselves as rehab agencies and not OPTs.

On slide 10, the last bullet on this slide is new. And it's basically to say that – to explain how the PT, OT and speech services are considered collectively and makes it clear that the CCI edits are applied by provider type and not by discipline or revenue code. Hopefully we will be able to give an example that relates to this. There are several out there so I'll add an example to this page.

On slide – oh, I'm skipping slide 11 and on to slide 12 and the last bullet was added and this just defines the subset of the code pairs which are included, that are actually taken out of the FIs' version for those who want to know and it includes are the anesthesia codes, the E/M codes and the code ranges that are noted, mental health codes and drug administration codes. So, I wanted to make sure that that was part of a slide.

Slide 13, just wanted to add here that we will add another slide of this same Column 1/Column 2 Correct Coding Table in a different therapy code range and, you know, likely the majority of the services like between 97110 and 97116 or so. So we'll be adding another example so we can give a therapy example for the providers.

The slide 14, I added the last note. That's just to indicate that we, the provider call will be coming back to both a Mutually Exclusive Table and Column 1/Column 2 Table to review all the columns that are seen in the CCI edit tables.

On slide 15, I added a fourth bullet to the box, at the top, to make it clear that the Modifier -59 is the only modifier for use for PT/OT and SLP services. In the provider version, the last bullet and the three indicator definitions will be made a new slide. This will help to clarify the individual indicators and I'll just give an example of a code pair with a "0", with a "1" or with a "9" and explain what those mean.

In table – I mean on slide 16, again the last bullet, which is the example, will become a new slide so that we can concentrate on making the example clearer of how to use the Modifier -59. I'll also probably – just add another example – one or two examples to that page, as well.

On slide, let's see, 17. This slide you had asked us to fix, so that the codes were in numerical order. In doing so I might not have been really clear on what my directions were, so we will be changing the slide to on, the box for the first code, the 97110 that is the code that has the 59 modifier and we will remove the 59 modifier from 97150, the group therapy code, and the GP modifiers will be added to both of these codes. And what, that should make that really clear.

The other the other thing we had a comment about was, some of the contractors wanted us to add, in contrast, a CMS 1500 form example. On this PowerPoint today we did not do that. And I actually wanted to ask you if you felt that we needed to do that, to address that in your comments in the question and answer session.

On slide 18 we have added – this is the question that was asked about the claims that cross a quarter. So, for the example in the second bullet under the important note, there, we had had an example from the claim representing services from the start date of September 29th through

October 23rd, and we did check on this and we were again told that it is the start date that is the driver. So that the CCI edits would be applied from the start date quarter rather than changing during, according to the date of service. So the start date is the driver and we kept the example in there the same as it was before.

Skipping to slide 21. Simply on this slide just I added the links to the web pages for the manual chapters.

And on page 22 this was rewritten to explain the things that we have done up to the provider call on December 6th rather than to repeat what we're asking them to do. So we just changed the text of it.

On slide 23, I also added, I believe, the last two bullets just to clarify that this is an ongoing educational effort with a target date of, now, December 6th for the provider call. And, I believe that that is all the changes that have been made to the PowerPoint. There might be some other grammatical changes, but those are the context changes that have been made.

So, at this point I would like to turn this back over to Hazeline.

Hazeline Roulac: OK. Thank you, Pam.

We're going to prepare now to open the call for your questions. Because this call is being transcribed and recorded, when you ask your question please identify yourself and your organization that you are with.

In order to get as many questions asked as possible, we ask that you limit your question to one. If we're not able to answer your question today, we ask that you e-mail your question to the

following mailbox: [contractortraining@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:contractortraining@cms.hhs.gov) and we will make sure that your questions get to the right person for follow up.

At this time, operator, you may go ahead and open the phone up to questions.

Operator: If you would like to signal for a question, please do so by pressing the star key followed by the digit one on your touch-tone telephone. If you are using a speakerphone, please make sure that your mute function is turned off in order for your signal to reach our equipment. Once again to ask your question, it is star one on your touch-tone telephone at this time to ask your question. We'll pause for just a moment to assemble a roster.

We will go to our first question. It is from Mary Bulian of Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Madonna Fritts: Hi, this is Madonna Fritts here with Mary and we're on slide 15 and I just want to clarify bullet number one, two, three, four, five, where it says is Modifier -59 is the only CCI modifier that is effective for physical, outpatient, speech therapy. Are you going to clarify that and put that in GO, GN and GP? Say something about that...

Mary Bulian: On this page.

Madonna Fritts: ...on this page.

Pam West: Yes, I can actually do that on this page or I had thought about adding an additional slide. We can add it maybe after we talk about Modifier -59 ...

Madonna Fritts: Yes.

Pam West: ...in this section. That was going to recognize the actual code list for physical and occupational and speech therapists in the 100-04 claims manual.

Mary Bulian: Oh, OK.

Madonna Fritts: I think an extra slide would be ...because if you put this up, the provider is going to call and they read that...

Madonna Fritts: Right.

Mary Bulian: ... 59 is the only modifier you're going to get a lot of questions.

Pam West: Yes. It's the only CCI modifier, but yes, we will definitely add that which is why we wanted the modifiers on the UB-92 example as well.

Mary Bulian: Yes.

Pam West: But I did want to put that there with a separate indication that the GN, GP and GO modifiers still need to be applied.

Thank you.

Madonna Fritts: Thank you.

Hazeline Roulac: OK, thank you. Next question.

Operator: We have no questions at this time, but we would like to remind everyone that if you would like to ask a question, please press star one on your touch-tone telephone. Again as a quick

reminder if you are using a speakerphone, please make sure to turn off the mute function before pressing star one to ensure that your signal does reach our equipment. We'll pause again momentarily to see if we have any additional questions.

It appears that we have no further questions at this time. Ms. Roulac, I'll turn the conference back over to you.

Hazeline Roulac: OK, great. All right just a few reminders before we end the call. Just remember the December 6th provider training call. Please notify affected providers in your local area about this training call. All participants must register for this training. And the registration instructions were attached to the JSM, which was released on Monday, November the seventh.

The draft slide presentation that Pam reviewed just now will be revised prior to the December call and the slides will be posted to the Contractor Training for CMS Initiatives web page. Also it will be posted to the Coding Educational Resources web page. And the URL for the Coding Educational Resources web guide is included in the listserv message that was attached to the JSM.

We would like to ask you to evaluate this training session by going to the Medicare Contractor Training for CMS Initiative web page and completing the contractor evaluation form. The evaluation form is located at the very bottom of the web page and the URL for the web page is [www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/cmsinit.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/cmsinit.asp).

Should you have additional questions about the CCI edits as they apply to outpatient providers or therapy services you can use the evaluation form to also send in your questions. Just put your question in the comment box that is located at the bottom of the evaluation form and we will make sure that your questions get to the right subject matter expert for follow up.

A copy of today's transcript will be posted to the Contractor Training for CMS Initiatives web site within approximately two weeks from today.

If there are no further questions, we'll thank you for your participation.

Operator: We do have one follow up question if you'd like to take it at this time?

Hazeline Roulac: Yes, we'll be happy to.

Operator: All right. We'll go back to Mary Bulian with Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

Mary Bulian: Hi, this is Mary and I'm just trying to find on one of the slides under the narrative it said to, to, just trying to find it. I think it was on twenty – page 14 under the note it says, "We will revisit this slide after the slides on modifiers are presented in order to, to. "

Hazeline Roulac: OK.

Mary Bulian: OK, I didn't know if any of the providers were going to pull down the note, but there's one little typo there.

Hazeline Roulac: Thank you.

Mary Bulian: You're welcome. That's it.

Hazeline Roulac: Are there any other questions, operator?

Operator: It appears that we have no other questions at this time.

Hazeline Roulac: OK, great. Well, thank you every one for participating. This ends our call for today.

Operator: Once again, this will conclude today's meeting. We do appreciate your participation. You may disconnect your line at this time.

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