



Related MLN Matters Article #: MM5968

Date Posted: April 17, 2008

Related CR #: 5968

### *Nursing Facility Services (Codes 99304 - 99318)*

#### Key Words

MM5968, CR5968, R1489CP, Nursing, Facility, NF

#### Provider Types Affected

Physicians and qualified non-physician practitioners who bill Medicare Carriers or Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries in skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) or nursing facilities (NFs)

#### Key Points

- The effective date of the instruction is July 1, 2008.
- The implementation date is July 7, 2008.
- Effective January 1, 2006, the American Medical Association (AMA), Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) Panel removed the typical/average time units for evaluation and management (E/M) services in the NF code family. Until these typical/average times were reestablished, this action precluded the billing of:
  - Prolonged services for E/M visits in a SNF or NF; and
  - Time-based counseling and/or coordination of care for NF services.
- Change Request (CR) 5968 updates the *Medicare Claims Processing Manual* by announcing that the AMA CPT Panel has reestablished these typical/average time units, beginning January 1, 2008.
- **Effective July 1, 2008, providers may:**
  - Bill for medically necessary prolonged services for SNF or NF E/M visits (CPT codes 99356 and 99357) with NF Services (code range 99304 – 99306, 99307 – 99310 and 99318); and
  - Use the medically necessary prolonged services CPT codes (99356 and 99357) to bill for medically necessary E/M visits for time-based counseling and/or coordination of care for NF services in the code range 99304 – 99306, 99307 – 99310, and 99318.

*CPT only copyright 2007 American Medical Association. All rights reserved*

## Important Links

The related MLN Matters article can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5968.pdf> on the CMS website.

The official instruction (CR5968) regarding this change may be viewed at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1489CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

Providers will find the updated *Medicare Claims Processing Manual*, Chapter 12, (Physicians/Non-physician Practitioners), Section 30.6.13 (Nursing Facility Services (Codes 99304 - 99318)), Subsection F (Use of the Prolonged Services Codes and Other Time-Related Services) as an attachment to that CR.