

CMS Manual System	Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS)
Pub 100-04 Medicare Claims Processing	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
Transmittal 13545	Date: December 19, 2025
	Change Request 14336

SUBJECT: Quarterly Update to the National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) Procedure-to-Procedure (PTP) Edits, Version 32.1, Effective April 1, 2026

I. SUMMARY OF CHANGES: The purpose of this Change Request (CR) is to update the NCCI PTP edits. This recurring update notification applies to chapter 23, section 20.9.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 1, 2026

**Unless otherwise specified, the effective date is the date of service.*

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: April 6, 2026

Disclaimer for manual changes only: The revision date and transmittal number apply only to red italicized material. Any other material was previously published and remains unchanged. However, if this revision contains a table of contents, you will receive the new/revised information only, and not the entire table of contents.

II. CHANGES IN MANUAL INSTRUCTIONS: (N/A if manual is not updated)

R=REVISED, N=NEW, D=DELETED-Only One Per Row.

R/N/D	CHAPTER / SECTION / SUBSECTION / TITLE
N/A	N/A

III. FUNDING:

For Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs):

The Medicare Administrative Contractor is hereby advised that this constitutes technical direction as defined in your contract. CMS does not construe this as a change to the MAC Statement of Work. The contractor is not obligated to incur costs in excess of the amounts allotted in your contract unless and until specifically authorized by the Contracting Officer. If the contractor considers anything provided, as described above, to be outside the current scope of work, the contractor shall withhold performance on the part(s) in question and immediately notify the Contracting Officer, in writing or by e-mail, and request formal directions regarding continued performance requirements.

IV. ATTACHMENTS:

Recurring Update Notification

Attachment - Recurring Update Notification

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II. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Background: The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) developed the NCCI to promote national correct coding methodologies and to control improper coding that leads to inappropriate payment in Part B claims.

The latest package of NCCI PTP edits, version 32.1, effective April 1, 2026, will be available via the Hybrid Cloud Data Center (HCDC). The test files will be available on or about January 30, 2026, and the final files will be available on or about February 13, 2026.

Version 32.1 will include all previous versions and updates from January 1, 1996, to the present. In the past, NCCI was organized into two tables: Column One/Column Two Correct Coding Edits and Mutually Exclusive Code (MEC) Edits. In order to simplify the use of NCCI edit files (two tables), on April 1, 2012, CMS consolidated these two edit files into the Column One/Column Two Correct Coding edit file. Separate consolidations have occurred for the two practitioner NCCI edit files and the two NCCI edit files used for the Outpatient Code Editor (OCE). It will only be necessary to search for the Column One/Column Two Correct Coding edit file for active or previously deleted edits. CMS no longer publishes a Mutually Exclusive edit file on its website for either practitioner or outpatient hospital services, since all active and deleted edits will appear in the single Column One/Column Two Correct Coding edit file on each website. **The edits previously contained in the Mutually Exclusive edit file are NOT being deleted but are being moved to the Column One/Column Two Correct Coding edit file.** Refer to the CMS NCCI webpage for additional information at <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/coding-billing/ncci-medicare>.

B. Policy: The coding policies developed are based on coding conventions defined in the American Medical Association's Current Procedural Terminology manual, national and local policies and edits, coding guidelines developed by national societies, analysis of standard medical and surgical practice, and review of current coding practice.

III. BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS TABLE

"Shall" denotes a mandatory requirement, and "should" denotes an optional requirement.

Number	Requirement	Responsibility								
		A/B MAC			DME MAC	Shared-System Maintainers				Other
		A	B	HHH		FIS S	MC S	VM S	CW F	
14336.1	<p>The Regional Office Correct Coding Initiative (RO CCI) representatives shall access the file from the Hybrid Cloud Data Center (HCDC) in the same manner as they downloaded the previous versions.</p> <p>The filenames for the regions are:</p> <p>Test File:</p> <p>MU00.@BF12372.CCIALl.MEEDITS.TE ST01.V321</p> <p>MU00.@BF12372.CCIALl.CMPEDITS.T EST01.V321</p> <p>Final File:</p> <p>MU00.@BF12372.CCIALl.MEEDITS.FI NAL01.V321</p> <p>MU00.@BF12372.CCIALl.CMPEDITS.FI NAL01.V321</p>									CM S
14336.2	<p>Contractors shall use the specific job control language in order to access Version 32.0 through the Network Data Mover and load the files into the system. The filenames for the contractors are:</p> <p>Test File:</p> <p>MU00.@BF12372.CCINDM.MEEDITS.T EST01.V321</p> <p>MU00.@BF12372.CCINDM.CMPEDITS. TEST01.V321</p> <p>Final File:</p> <p>MU00.@BF12372.CCINDM.MEEDITS.FI NAL01.V321</p> <p>MU00.@BF12372.CCINDM.CMPEDITS.F INAL01.V321</p>		X							
14336.3	The NCCI adds, deletes, and modifier indicator change lists shall be forthcoming		X							

Number	Requirement	Responsibility								
		A/B MAC			DM E	Shared-System Maintainers				Other
		A	B	HH H	MA C	FIS S	MC S	VM S	CW F	
	from the NCCI contractor to CMS via electronic mail, on or about February 13, 2026. The contractors shall receive the change reports via Technical Direction from CMS prior to this version effective date.									
14336.4	Contractors shall maintain the NCCI and MEC file formats contained in publication 100-04, Medicare Claims Processing Manual, chapter 23, section 20.9.		X							
14336.5	Contractors shall not search their files either to retract payment or to retroactively pay claims.		X							
14336.6	Contractors shall adjust claims if they are brought to their attention.		X							
14336.7	The contractors shall load the files 2-3 days prior to the effective date (including weekends), if they foresee any problems with loading the CCI files.		X							

IV. PROVIDER EDUCATION

Medicare Learning Network® (MLN): CMS will develop and release national provider education content and market it through the MLN Connects® newsletter shortly after we issue the CR. MACs shall link to relevant information on your website and follow IOM Pub. No. 100-09 Chapter 6, Section 50.2.4.1 for distributing the newsletter to providers. When you follow this manual section, you don't need to separately track and report MLN content releases. You may supplement with your local educational content after we release the newsletter.

Impacted Contractors: A/B MAC Part B

V. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Section A: Recommendations and supporting information associated with listed requirements:

"Should" denotes a recommendation.

X-Ref Requirement Number	Recommendations or other supporting information:
	N/A

Section B: All other recommendations and supporting information: N/A

VI. CONTACTS

Post-Implementation Contact(s): Contact your Contracting Officer's Representative (COR).

VII. FUNDING

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ATTACHMENTS: 0