

Department of Health & Human Services  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
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**CENTER FOR MEDICARE**

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**DATE:** November 2, 2020

**TO:** All Medicare Advantage, Cost, PACE, and Demonstration Organizations Systems Staff

**FROM:** Jennifer R. Shapiro, Director, Medicare Plan Payment Group

**SUBJECT:** Announcement of the November 2020 Encounter Data Software Release Updates

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) continues to implement software improvements to the systems that accept and process encounter data to support the Medicare Advantage (MA) program. These changes will be implemented in the Encounter Data Processing System (EDPS) on November 13, 2020.

**Provider Edit Update Related to Existing Edits:** Previously, EDPS used the Medicare Provider Enrollment, Chain, and Ownership System (PECOS) for determining if a provider was sanctioned. Effective with this release, EDPS will use the CMS Medicare Exclusion Database (MED) Sanction and Waiver files, which follows the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) guidelines for provider valuation. EDPS will evaluate the billing and rendering provider National Provider Identifiers (NPIs) submitted on encounters to check if they are present on the MED file. This change will impact encounters submitted after this release, regardless of the date of service.

The following reject edits will be updated to utilize the MED Monthly Files:

- Edit 01405 - Sanctioned Provider for Professional and Institutional Encounters
  - For Professional encounters: If in the MED Sanction file, the sanction date field (SANCDATE) is populated for either the billing provider (header level) or rendering provider (line level) NPI (provided on the encounter data or chart review record) and the header level or line level 'from date of service' on the encounter data falls between the sanction date and the reinstatement date field (REINDATE), if populated, then this edit will post. If the billing provider and rendering provider NPI on the encounter data or chart review record exists on the MED Waiver file and the header level 'from dates' are between the dates in the 'WAIVEREFFDT' and 'WAIVERENDDT' data fields of the MED Waiver file, this edit will be bypassed.
  - For Institutional encounters: If in the MED Sanction file, the sanction date field (SANCDATE) is populated for either the billing provider or rendering provider

(header level) NPI (provided on the encounter data or chart review record) and the header level 'from date of service' on the encounter data falls between the sanction date and the reinstatement date field (REINDATE), if populated, then this edit will post. If the billing and rendering providers' NPIs on the encounter data exists in the MED Waiver file and the header level 'from dates' are between the dates in the 'WAIVEREFFDT' and 'WAIVERENDDT' fields of the MED Waiver file if populated, this edit will be bypassed.

- Edit 20450 – Attending Physician is Sanctioned for Institutional Encounters  
If the attending provider NPI on the encounter data or chart review record is present in the MED Sanction file and a date exists in the sanction date field (SANCDATE) and the 'from date of service' (header level) is between the sanction date and the reinstatement date (REINDATE), if populated, then this edit will post. If the attending provider NPI from the encounter data or chart review record exists on the MED Waiver file and the header level 'from date' on the encounter data or chart review record falls between the MED Waiver file fields 'WAIVEREFFDT' and 'WAIVERENDDT' if populated, this edit will be bypassed.

**National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) edit update:** The following Informational Edit 25000 - "CCI Error" is updated for professional encounters to allow modifiers 59, XE, XS, XP, or XU on column one and column two codes for the same date of service. Previously, these modifiers were allowed on column two codes only. This edit change will impact encounters submitted with dates of service on or after July 1, 2019.

Questions can be addressed to [RiskAdjustmentOperations@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:RiskAdjustmentOperations@cms.hhs.gov), please specify, "November 2020- Encounter Data Software Release" in the subject line. Thank you.