



## **Quarterly Update to the National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) Procedure-to-Procedure (PTP) Edits, Version 25.0, Effective January 1, 2019**

MLN Matters Number: MM11044

Related Change Request (CR) Number: 11044

Related CR Release Date: November 30, 2018

Effective Date: January 1, 2019

Related CR Transmittal Number: R4175CP

Implementation Date: January 7, 2019

### **PROVIDER TYPE AFFECTED**

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This MLN Matters Article is intended for physicians, other providers, and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

### **PROVIDER ACTION NEEDED**

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CR 11044 updates the National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) Procedure-to-Procedure (PTP) edits, which relate to Chapter 23, Section 20.9 of the Medicare Claims Processing Manual (Pub. 100-04). Please make sure your billing staffs are aware of these updates.

### **BACKGROUND**

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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 Medicare Part B claims.

Version 25.0 will include all previous versions and updates from January 1, 1996, to the present. In the past, NCCI was organized in two tables: Column 1/Column 2 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 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 website for additional information at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/NationalCorrectCodInitEd/index.html>.

The coding policies developed are based on coding conventions defined in the American Medical Association's Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) 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.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The official instruction, CR11044, issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/2018Downloads/R4175CP.pdf>.

If you have questions, your MACs may have more information. Find their website at <http://go.cms.gov/MAC-website-list>.

## DOCUMENT HISTORY

Date of Change	Description
November 30, 2018	Initial article released.

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