

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



News Flash –

REVISED product from the Medicare Learning Network® (MLN)

- [“Advance Beneficiary Notice of Noncoverage \(ABN\) Part A and Part B,”](#) Booklet, ICN 006266, Downloadable & Hard Copy.

MLN Matters® Number: MM8126 **Revised**

Related Change Request (CR) #: CR 8126

Related CR Release Date: November 23, 2012

Effective Date: January 1, 2013

Related CR Transmittal #: R2596CP

Implementation Date: January 7, 2013

**Note:** This article was revised on January 25, 2013 to add a link to MM8005 (<http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/MM8005.pdf>) to alert providers to the new reporting and collection requirements of beneficiary functional data that apply to all claims for Medicare Part B outpatient therapy and the severity/complexity modifiers for the functional measures. All other information remains unchanged.

## 2013 Annual Update to the Therapy Code List

### Provider Types Affected

This MLN Matters® Article is intended for physicians, therapists, and other providers who submit claims to Medicare contractors (carriers, Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs), A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs), and/or Regional Home Health Intermediaries (RHHIs)) for outpatient rehabilitation therapy services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

#### Disclaimer

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## Provider Action Needed

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 8126 which updates the therapy code list for Calendar Year (CY) 2013 by adding two "Sometimes Therapy" codes. CR8126 also adds forty two "Always Therapy" Codes, which are non-payable and for use only in functional reporting. The additions to the therapy code list reflect those made in the CY 2013 Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System and Current Procedural Terminology, Fourth Edition (HCPCS/CPT-4). Please make sure your billing and coding staff are aware of these changes.

## Background

The Social Security Act (Section 1834(k)(5); see [http://www.ssa.gov/OP\\_Home/ssact/title18/1834.htm](http://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title18/1834.htm) on the Internet) requires that all claims for outpatient rehabilitation therapy services and all comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facility (CORF) services be reported using a uniform coding system. The Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System/Current Procedural Terminology, 2013 Edition (HCPCS/CPT-4) is the coding system used for the reporting of these services.

CR 8126 provides the Calendar Year (CY) 2013 annual updates to the list of codes that sometimes or always describe therapy services. The additions to the therapy code list reflect those made in the 2013 Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System and Current Procedural Terminology, Fourth Edition (HCPCS/CPT-4). The therapy code listing can be found at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Billing/TherapyServices/index.html> on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website.

CR 8126 updates the therapy code list by adding two "Sometimes Therapy" codes and forty two "Always Therapy" codes for CY 2013 as shown in the following tables:

### Always Therapy Codes Added for CY 2013

	HCPCS Code	Short Descriptor		HCPCS Code	Short Descriptor (Cont'd)		HCPCS Code	Short Descriptor (Cont'd)
1	G8978	Mobility current status	15	G8992	Other PT/OT D/C status	29	G9164	Lang express D/C status
2	G8979	Mobility goal status	16	G8993	Sub PT/OT current status	30	G9165	Atten current status
3	G8980	Mobility D/C status	17	G8994	Sub PT/OT goal status	31	G9166	Atten goal status
4	G8981	Body pos current status	18	G8995	Sub PT/OT D/C status	32	G9167	Atten D/C status
5	G8982	Body pos goal status	19	G8996	Swallow current status	33	G9168	Memory current status
6	G8983	Body pos D/C status	20	G8997	Swallow goal status	34	G9169	Memory goal status
7	G8984	Carry current status	21	G8998	Swallow D/C status	35	G9170	Memory D/C status
8	G8985	Carry goal status	22	G8999	Motor speech current status	36	G9171	Voice current status

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	HCPCS Code	Short Descriptor		HCPCS Code	Short Descriptor (Cont'd)		HCPCS Code	Short Descriptor (Cont'd)
9	G8986	Carry D/C status	23	G9158	Motor speech D/C status	37	G9172	Voice goal status
10	G8987	Self care current status	24	G9159	Lang comp current status	38	G9173	Voice D/C status
11	G8988	Self care goal status	25	G9160	Lang comp goal status	39	G9174	Speech lang current status
12	G8989	Self care D/C status	26	G9161	Lang comp D/C status	40	G9175	Speech lang goal status
13	G8990	Other PT/OT current status	27	G9162	Lang express current status	41	G9176	Speech lang D/C status
14	G8991	Other PT/OT goal status	28	G9163	Lang express goal status	42	G9186	Motor speech goal status

### Sometimes Therapy Codes Added for CY 2013

	HCPCS Code	Short Descriptor
1	G0456	Neg pres wound < 50 sq cm
2	G0457	Neg pres wound > 50 sq cm

### Additional Information

CR 8036 alerts providers that all requests for therapy services above \$3,700 provided by speech language therapists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, and physicians must be approved in advance. This applies to: Part B Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs), Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facilities (CORFs), rehabilitation agencies (Outpatient Rehabilitation Facilities (ORFs), private practices, home health agencies (TOB 34X), and hospital outpatient departments. You can find CR 8036 at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R1124OTN.pdf> on the CMS website. The MLN Matters® article corresponding to CR 8036 is at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/MM8036.pdf> on the CMS website.

The official instruction, CR 8126 issued to your carriers, FIs, A/B MACs, and RHHs regarding this change may be viewed at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R2596CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your carriers, FIs, A/B MACs, and RHHs at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/provider-compliance-interactive-map/index.html> on the CMS website.

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