

CMS Manual System	Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS)
Pub 100-04 Medicare Claims Processing	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
Transmittal 3417	Date: November 25, 2015
	Change Request 9448

SUBJECT: Therapy Cap Values for Calendar Year (CY) 2016

I. SUMMARY OF CHANGES: The purpose of this Change Request (CR) is to describe the amounts and the policy for outpatient therapy caps for CY 2016. Information related to this Recurring Update Notification can be found in Pub. 100-04 Chapter 5, Section 10.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2016

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

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: January 4, 2016

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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SUBJECT: Therapy Cap Values for Calendar Year (CY) 2016

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I. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Background: The Balanced Budget Act of 1997, P.L. 105-33, Section 4541(c) applies, per beneficiary, annual financial limitations on expenses considered incurred for outpatient therapy services under Medicare Part B, commonly referred to as “therapy caps”. The therapy caps are updated each year based on the Medicare Economic Index. An exceptions process to the therapy caps for reasonable and medically necessary services was required by section 5107 of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. The exceptions process for the therapy caps has been continuously extended several times through subsequent legislation. Most recently, section 202 of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 extended the therapy caps exceptions process through December 31, 2017.

B. Policy: Therapy caps for CY 2016 will be \$1,960.

II. BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS TABLE

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

Number	Requirement	Responsibility									
		A/B MAC			D M E M A C	Shared- System Maintainers				Other	
		A	B	H H H		F I S S	M C S	V M S	C W F		
9448.1	Contractors shall update the allowed dollar amount for CY 2016 outpatient therapy limits to \$1,960 for physical therapy and speech-language pathology combined and \$1,960 for occupational therapy.		X			X	X			X	
9448.2	Medicare contractors shall update the dollar amounts shown in the existing MSN message 17.18 and 17.19 with \$1,960.					X	X				

III. PROVIDER EDUCATION TABLE

Number	Requirement	Responsibility
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		A/B MAC			D M E M A C	C E D I
		A	B	H H H		
9448.3	MLN Article: A provider education article related to this instruction will be available at http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/ shortly after the CR is released. You will receive notification of the article release via the established "MLN Matters" listserv. Contractors shall post this article, or a direct link to this article, on their Web sites and include information about it in a listserv message within 5 business days after receipt of the notification from CMS announcing the availability of the article. In addition, the provider education article shall be included in the contractor's next regularly scheduled bulletin. Contractors are free to supplement MLN Matters articles with localized information that would benefit their provider community in billing and administering the Medicare program correctly.	X	X	X		

IV. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

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

"Should" denotes a recommendation.

X-Ref Requirement Number	Recommendations or other supporting information:

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

V. CONTACTS

Pre-Implementation Contact(s): Pamela West, 410-786-2302 or Pamela.West@cms.hhs.gov (Policy), Wil Gehne, 410-786-6148 or Wilfred.Gehne@cms.hhs.gov (Institutional Claims), Brian Reitz, 410-786-5001 or Brian.Reitz@cms.hhs.gov (Professional Claims)

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

VI. FUNDING

Section A: For Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs):

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ATTACHMENTS: 0