MLN Matters®
Information for Medicare Fee-for-Service Health Care Professionals

News Flash – The revised Skilled Nursing Facility Prospective Payment System Fact Sheet (August 2009), which provides the elements of the Skilled Nursing Facility Prospective Payment System, is now available in downloadable format from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Medicare Learning Network at *http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/snfprospaymtfctsht.pdf* on the CMS website.

MLN Matters® Number: MM6619 | Related Change Request (CR) #: 6619

Related CR Release Date: September 4, 2009 | Effective Date: January 1, 2010

Related CR Transmittal #: R1814CP | Implementation Date: January 4, 2010

2010 Annual Update of HCPCS Codes for Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Consolidated Billing (CB) for the Common Working File (CWF), A/B MACs, Medicare Carriers and Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs)

Provider Types Affected

This article is for physicians, providers, and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare contractors (carriers, DME Medicare Administrative Contractors (DME MACs), Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs), and/or A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs)) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries who are in a Part A covered SNF stay.

Provider Action Needed

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 6619 which provides the 2010 annual update of Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Codes for Skilled Nursing Facility Consolidated Billing (SNF CB) that will be used in Medicare claims processing systems. Be sure billing staff are aware of these updates.

Background

Medicare's claims processing systems currently have edits in place for claims received for beneficiaries in a Part A covered SNF stay as well as for beneficiaries in a non-covered stay. These edits only allow services that are excluded from

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SNF CB to be separately paid by Medicare contractors. The related policy is contained in the Medicare Claims Processing Manual (Chapter 6, Section 110.4.1 and Chapter 6, Section 20.6) which is available at *http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/downloads/clm104c06.pdf* on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website.

Physicians and providers are advised that, by the first week in December 2009, new code files will be posted at *http://www.cms.hhs.gov/SNFConsolidatedBilling/* on the CMS website.

Institutional providers should note that this site will include new Excel® and PDF format files. It is important and necessary for the provider community to view the "General Explanation of the Major Categories" PDF file located at the bottom of each year's FI update listed at *http://www.cms.hhs.gov/SNFConsolidatedBilling/* on the CMS website in order to understand the Major Categories including additional exclusions not driven by HCPCS codes.

Additional Information

You can find information related to SNFs and Medicare on the CMS Skilled Nursing Facility Center at *http://www.cms.hhs.gov/center/snf.asp* on the CMS website.

The official instruction, CR 6619, issued to your carrier, FI, A/B MAC, and DME MAC regarding this change may be viewed at *http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1814CP.pdf* on the CMS website. If you have any questions, please contact your carrier, FI, A/B MAC, or DME MAC at their toll-free number, which may be found at *http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip* on the CMS website.

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