# New Patient Discharge Status Code 21 to Define Discharges or Transfers to Court/Law Enforcement – JA6385

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| Related CR Release Date: April 24, 2009 | Date Job Aid Revised: May 4, 2009 |
| Effective Date: October 1, 2009 | Implementation Date: October 5, 2009 |

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| Key Words | MM6385, CR6385, R1718CP, Patient, Discharge, Status |
| Contractors Affected | • Fiscal Intermediaries<br>• Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors |
| Provider Types Affected | Hospitals submitting claims to Medicare Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs) and/or A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries |

Change Request (CR) 6385 provides implementing instructions for a new patient discharge status code (21), which defines discharges or transfers to court/law enforcement. This includes transfers to incarceration facilities such as jail, prison, or other detention facility.

**Provider Needs to Know…**

- The National Uniform Billing Committee created a new patient discharge status code (21) to define discharges or transfers to court/law enforcement.
- Patient discharge status code 21 usage includes transfers to incarceration facilities such as jails, prisons, or other detention facilities.
- Medicare systems will accept this code for claims with discharge dates on or after October 1, 2009.
- For Inpatient Prospective Payment System hospitals, the post-acute transfer payment policy will not apply to claims that contain patient discharge status code 21.

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| Background | The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has required Field Locator 17 (patient discharge status code) on the Uniform Billing Claims Form (UB-04) and its electronic equivalence. The patient discharge status code indicates the disposition or discharge status of the beneficiary on the submitted claims. |
| Operational Impact | N/A |
| Reference Materials | The related MLN Matters® article can be found at *http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6385.pdf* on the CMS website.<br><br>The official instruction (CR6385) issued regarding this change may be found at *http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1718CP.pdf* on the CMS website. |