Medicare Learning Network
MLN Matters®
CMS CENTERS for MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES
Information for Medicare Fee-for-Service Health Care Professionals

News Flash – Medicare Physician Guide: A Resource for Residents, Practicing Physicians, and Other Health Care Professionals (October 2009) offers general information about the Medicare Program, how to become a Medicare provider or supplier, Medicare reimbursement, Medicare payment policies, evaluation and management services, protecting the Medicare Trust Fund, inquiries, overpayments, and fee-for-service appeals. This publication can be accessed at ***http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/physicianguide.pdf*** on the CMS website.

MLN Matters® Number: MM6533 | **Related Change Request (CR) #: 6533**

Related CR Release Date: October 27, 2009 | **Effective Date: April 1, 2010**

Related CR Transmittal #: R1836CP | **Implementation Date: April 5, 2010**

New Physician Specialty Code for Geriatric Psychiatry

Provider Types Affected

This article is for physicians and non-physician practitioners who bill Medicare carriers and Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MAC) for providing psychiatric care to geriatric Medicare beneficiaries.

What You Need to Know

Effective April 1, 2010, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will establish a new physician specialty code (code 27) for Geriatric Psychiatry. In addition, the codes 32, 74, and 75 are being removed from the physician specialty section of the Medicare Claims Processing Manual, because they are non-physician specialty codes. You should ensure that your billing staffs are aware of this new specialty code.

Background

When enrolling in Medicare, physicians self-designate their Medicare physician specialty on the Medicare enrollment application (CMS-855I) or Internet-based Provider Enrollment, Chain and Ownership System; and non-physician practitioners are assigned a Medicare specialty code. This specialty code becomes associated with the claims that the physician or non-physician practitioner submits, and describes the specific/unique types of medicine that

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physicians and non-physician practitioners (and certain other suppliers) practice. Moreover, CMS uses these specialty codes for programmatic and claims processing purposes.

CR 6533, from which this article is taken, announces that effective April 1, 2010, CMS will establish a new physician specialty code for Geriatric Psychiatry. For care you provide on or after that effective date, your carrier or A/B MAC will recognize and use specialty code 27 as a valid primary and/or secondary specialty code for Geriatric Psychiatry services provided by both individuals and organizations.

Additional Information

You can find more information about the new physician specialty code for geriatric psychiatry services by going to CR 6533, located at ***http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1836CP.pdf*** on the CMS website. If you have any questions, please contact your carrier or A/B 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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