



## Hospice Claims Edits for Certifying Physicians

Related CR Release Date: **May 10, 2024**

MLN Matters Number: MM13531 **Revised**

Effective Date: **June 3, 2024**

Related Change Request (CR) Number: [CR 13531](#)

Implementation Date: October 7, 2024

Related CR Transmittal Number: **R12365CP**

Related CR Title: Additional Implementation Edits on Hospice Claims for Hospice Certifying Physician Medicare Enrollment

**What's Changed: We revised the effective date and the web address of CR 13531. We also added coding information for the referring provider name on page 2. Substantive content changes are in dark red.**

### Affected Providers

- Hospices
- Physicians and other providers billing Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for hospice services they provide to Medicare patients

### Action Needed

Make sure your billing staff knows about these updates **effective June 3, 2024**:

- CMS will pay for hospice services if certifying physicians, including hospice physicians and hospice attending physicians, are enrolled in or opted-out of Medicare
- The hospice attending and certifying physicians will be subjected to ordering and referring denial edits

### Background

We're making sure certifying physicians, including hospice physicians and hospice attending physicians, are enrolled in or opted-out of Medicare before paying for their hospice services. This requirement is in the FY 2024 Hospice Payment Rate Update [Final Rule](#).

We'll deny hospice claims if the certifying physician, including hospice physician and hospice attending physician, isn't on our PECOS hospice ordering and referring files. This addresses hospice program integrity and quality of care per Section 6405 of the [Affordable Care Act](#).

We're implementing these changes on October 7, 2024. **For claims you submit on or after October 7, 2024, with dates of service as of June 3, 2024, or later**, we'll check the REF PHYS NPI field and the ATT PHYS NPI field on hospice claims to make sure the certifying physicians,

including hospice physicians and hospice attending physicians, are enrolled in or opted-out of Medicare. We'll subject both physicians, if different, to the ordering and referring denial edits for the initial certification period.

If the physicians are one and the same, we'll apply the edits only to the "Attending" field.

For subsequent certifications, if both physicians are listed, we'll check the REF PHYS NPI field for the certifying physician. You should enter the attending physician in the ATT PHYS NPI field and the certifying physician in the REF PHYS NPI field. If the patient doesn't have an attending physician, you should report the hospice certifying/recertifying physician in the ATT PHYS NPI field.

CR 13531 also makes the following changes for claims reporting to Section 20 of the Medicare Claims Processing Manual, [Chapter 11](#):

- **Attending Physician I.D.** – A hospice enters the name and NPI of the attending physician designated by the patient at the time of election as having the most significant role in the determination and delivery of the patient's medical care. The patient's designated attending physician could be an independent physician, hospice physician, a nurse practitioner, or physician assistant. If there is no attending physician listed, then you should report the hospice certifying/recertifying physician.
- **Other Physician I.D.** – A hospice enters the name and NPI of the hospice physician responsible for certifying/recertifying patient's terminal illness, with a life expectancy of 6 months or less, if the disease runs its normal course. **For electronic claims, this information is reported in Loop ID 2310F – Referring Provider Name.** You should complete both the attending physician and other physician fields unless the patient's designated attending physician is the same as the physician certifying/recertifying the terminal illness. When the attending physician is also the physician certifying/recertifying the terminal illness, then you should only populate the attending physician field, the other physician field isn't required.

## More Information

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We issued CR 13531 to your MAC as the official instruction for this change.

For more information, [find your MAC's website](#).

## Document History

Date of Change	Description
May 14, 2024	We revised the effective date and the web address of CR 13531. We also added coding information for the referring provider name on page 2.
April 18, 2024	Initial article released.

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