



Quarterly Update to the National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) Procedure-to-Procedure (PTP) Edits, Version 24.1, Effective April 1, 2018

MLN Matters Number: MM10472

Related Change Request (CR) Number: 10472

Related CR Release Date: February 2, 2018

Effective Date: April 1, 2018

Related CR Transmittal Number: R3963CP

Implementation Date: April 2, 2018

PROVIDER TYPE AFFECTED

This MLN Matters Article is intended for physicians, providers, and suppliers billing Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

PROVIDER ACTION NEEDED

Change Request (CR) 10472 includes the normal update to the National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) Procedure-to-Procedure (PTP) edits. This update applies to Chapter 23, Section 20.9 of the "Medicare Claims Processing Manual." Please make sure your billing staffs are aware of these updates.

BACKGROUND

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) developed the NCCI to promote national correct coding methodologies and to control improper coding that leads to inappropriate payments in Part B claims.

Version 24.1 will include all previous versions and updates from January 1, 1996, to the present. In the past, NCCI was organized in two tables – Column 1/Column 2 Correct Coding edits and Mutually Exclusive Code (MEC) Edits. To simplify the use of NCCI edit files (two tables), on April 1, 2012, CMS consolidated these two edit files into the Column One/Column Two Correct Coding edit file. Separate consolidations have occurred for the two-practitioner NCCI edit files and the two NCCI edit files used for the Outpatient Code Editor (OCE). It will only be necessary to search the Column One/Column Two Correct Coding edit file for active or previously deleted edits.

CMS no longer publishes a Mutually Exclusive edit file on its website for either practitioner or

outpatient hospital services, since all active and deleted edits will appear in the single Column One/Column Two Correct Coding edit file on each website. **The edits previously contained in the Mutually Exclusive edit file are NOT being deleted but are being moved to the Column One/Column Two Correct Coding edit file.** Refer to the CMS NCCI webpage for additional information at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/NationalCorrectCodInitEd/index.html>.

The coding policies developed are based on coding conventions defined in the “American Medical Association’s Current Procedural Terminology Manual,” national and local policies and edits, coding guidelines developed by national societies, analysis of standard medical and surgical practice, and review of current coding practice.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The official instruction, CR10472, issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/2018Downloads/R3963CP.pdf>. If you have any questions, please contact your MAC at their toll-free number. That number is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/Medicare-FFS-Compliance-Programs/Review-Contractor-Directory-Interactive-Map/>

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Date of Change	Description
February 2, 2018	Initial article released.

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