



Healthcare Provider Taxonomy Codes (HPTCs) October 2018 Code Set Update

MLN Matters Number: MM10857

Related Change Request (CR) Number: 10857

Related CR Release Date: August 24, 2018

Effective Date: January 1, 2019

Related CR Transmittal Number: R4116CP

Implementation Date: No later than
January 7, 2019

PROVIDER TYPES 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) 10857 directs MACs to obtain the most recent Healthcare Provider Taxonomy Codes (HPTCs) code set and use it to update their internal HPTC tables and/or reference files. Make sure your billing staffs are aware of these updates.

BACKGROUND

The HPTC set is maintained by the National Uniform Claim Committee (NUCC) for standardized classification of health care providers. The NUCC updates the code set twice per year with changes effective April 1 and October 1. The HPTC list is available for view or for download at www.nucc.org/index.php/code-sets-mainmenu-41/provider-taxonomy-mainmenu-40.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requires that covered entities comply with the requirements in the electronic transaction format implementation guides adopted as national standards. Institutional and professional claim electronic standard implementation guides (X12 837-I and 837-P) each require use of valid codes contained in the HPTC set when there is a need to report provider type or physician, practitioner, or supplier specialty for a claim.

You should note that:

1. Valid HPTCs are those codes approved by the NUCC for current use.
2. Terminated codes are not approved for use after a specific date.

3. Newly approved codes are not approved for use prior to the effective date of the code set update in which each new code first appears.
4. Specialty and/or provider type codes issued by any entity other than the NUCC are not valid.
5. Medicare would be guilty of non-compliance with HIPAA if MACs accepted claims that contain invalid HPTCs.

Although the NUCC generally posts their updates on the Washington Publishing Company (WPC) website 3 months prior to the effective date, changes are not effective until April 1 or October 1 as indicated in each update. The changes to the code set include the addition of a new code and addition of definitions to existing codes. When reviewing the Health Care Provider Taxonomy code set online, revisions made since the last release are identified.

Note: MACs having the capability to do so will update the HPTC table, such that claims received on and after October 1, 2018, will be validated against the October 1, 2018, HPTC set. MACs lacking the capability to implement the updated October 2018 HPTC set, for claims received on or after October 1, 2018, will implement the October 2018 HPTC update as soon as possible after October 1, 2018, but no later than January 7, 2019.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The official instruction, CR10857, issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/2018Downloads/R4116CP.pdf>.

If you have questions, your MACs may have more information. Find their website at <http://go.cms.gov/MAC-website-list>.

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Date of Change	Description
August 24, 2018	Initial article released.

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