Quarterly Update to the National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) Procedure-to-Procedure (PTP) Edits, Version 26.1, Effective April 1, 2020

MLN Matters Number: MM11628 Revised   Related Change Request (CR) Number: 11628

Related CR Release Date: March 25, 2020   Effective Date: April 1, 2020

Related CR Transmittal Number: R10015CP   Implementation Date: April 6, 2020

Note: We revised this article on March 26, 2020, to reflect a revised CR11628 issued on March 25. The CR revision had no impact on the substance of the article. In the article, we revised the CR release date, transmittal number, and the web address of the CR. All other information remains the same.

PROVIDER TYPES AFFECTED

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

PROVIDER ACTION NEEDED

CR 11628 contains the quarterly update to the National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) Procedure-to-Procedure (PTP) edits. Please be sure your billing staffs know of the updates.

BACKGROUND

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

The latest package of NCCI Procedure-to-Procedure (PTP) edits, Version 26.1 effective April 1, 2020, will be available via the CMS Virtual Data Center (VDC). A test file will be available on or about January 31, 2020, and a final file will be available on or about February 14, 2020.

Version 26.1 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, CR11628, issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at https://www.cms.gov/files/document/r10015cp.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
March 26, 2020	We revised the article to reflect a revised CR11628 issued on March 25. The CR revision had no impact on the substance of the article. In the article, we revised the CR release date, transmittal number, and the web address of the CR. All other information remains the same.
January 17, 2020	Initial article released.

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