

Related Change Request (CR) #: 3170

Medlearn Matters Number: MM3170

Related CR Release Date: March 19, 2004

Related CR Transmittal #: 123

Effective Date: April 1, 2004

Implementation Date: April 5, 2004

April Outpatient Code Editor (OCE) Specifications Version 5.1 Used in OPPS

Provider Types Affected

Hospitals and other providers paid under the Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS).

Provider Action Needed

Affected hospitals and providers should note that instructions and specifications have been issued for the January revision of the Outpatient Code Editor (OCE) Version 5.0 as well as changes incorporated in the April OCE Version 5.1. This OCE is used in the OPPS claims payment processes.

Background

This CR, released by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), provides revised Outpatient Code Editor (OCE) instructions and specifications that will be utilized under the Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) for:

- Hospital outpatient departments;
- Community mental health centers (CMHCs); and
- Limited services as defined in CR 3170, when provided:
 - In a comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facility (CORF);
 - In a Home Health Agency (HHA) not under Home Health PPS; or
 - To a hospice patient for the treatment of a non-terminal illness.

This revised version of the OCE represents a significant change because it will process claims consisting of multiple days of services. The April Outpatient Code Editor (OCE) Specifications Version 5.1 also contains additional significant technical information not repeated in this article. This information is contained in the actual CR 3170 released by CMS, which may be found at:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/pm_trans/R123CP.pdf

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Implementation

The implementation date for this instruction is April 5, 2004.

Additional Information

If you have any questions, please contact your intermediary at their toll-free number, which may be found at:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/tollnums.asp>

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