

Related Change Request (CR) #: 3422

Medlearn Matters Number: MM3422

Related CR Release Date: August 27, 2004

Related CR Transmittal #: 283

Effective Date: January 1, 2005

Implementation Date: January 3, 2005

2005 Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Annual Update Reminder

Provider Types Affected

Physicians, providers, and suppliers

Provider Action Needed

This instruction is a reminder that the complete HCPCS file is updated and released annually by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to the Medicare contractors. The 2005 version of the HCPCS file contains existing, new, revised, and discontinued HCPCS codes for 2005. Your Medicare contractor will use the file for processing claims for services on or after January 1, 2005.

All Medicare physicians, providers, and suppliers: there is no longer a 90-day grace period for billing discontinued HCPCS codes as of January 1, 2005.

Background

Medicare providers submitting claims to Medicare contractors for Part B services use a HCPCS code to indicate the service that was provided. HCPCS consist of Level I codes, which are the American Medical Association's (AMA's) Current Physician Terminology Codes (CPT-4) and Level II codes, which are alpha-numeric and maintained by CMS.

The alpha-numeric index and the table of drugs will be posted to the CMS web site by the end of October. The CMS web site address for that posting will be:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/providers/pufdownload/default.asp#alphanu>

There is no longer a 90-day grace period for discontinued codes in order to be compliant with HIPAA standards. To view further information regarding the elimination of this 90-day grace period, see the *Medlearn Matters* article MM3093, which may be found at:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/matters/mmarticles/2004/MM3093.pdf>

Disclaimer

Medlearn Matters articles are prepared as a service to the public and are not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. Medlearn Matters articles may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations, and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents.

Implementation

The implementation date for this instruction is January 3, 2005.

Additional Information

For complete details, please see the official instruction issued to your carrier and fiscal intermediary regarding this change. That instruction may be viewed by going to:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/transmittals/comm_date_dsc.asp

From that Web page, look for CR3422 in the CR NUM column on the right, and click on the file for that CR. If you have any questions, please contact your carrier/intermediary at their toll-free number, which may be found at:

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

Disclaimer

Medlearn Matters articles are prepared as a service to the public and are not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. Medlearn Matters articles may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations, and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents.