

June 2006

For more information
800.277.0080

www.mjcpa.com

**MAULDIN
& JENKINS**
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS, LLC

Mauldin & Jenkins, Certified Public Accountants, LLC

The Healthcare Bulletin

Benefits Exhaust/No Payment Billing Procedures

CMS Transmittal R930CP implements a standard process for billing claims in benefits exhaust and no payment situations. Current requirements for billing these claims for SNF providers vary based on the intermediary's interpretation. This instruction implements a standard process. This standard process applies only to SNF residents who are newly admitted to, or are in, Medicare Part A stays on or after October 1, 2006.

A SNF is required to submit a bill even though no benefits may be payable by Medicare. CMS maintains a record of all inpatient services for each beneficiary, whether those services are covered by Medicare or not. These bills are required when the beneficiary has exhausted their 100 covered days and when the beneficiary no longer needs a Medicare covered level of care.

Benefits exhaust bills must be submitted monthly. For a patient who had previously dropped to non-skilled care, the provider must only submit the final discharge no payment bill that may span multiple months.

Clinical Documentation Tip for Observation & Assessment

Include documentation that the physician thinks the beneficiary's condition is likely to change. Document unstable conditions or high probability of unstable condition. Include vital signs, interventions, and risk for complications.

Medicare Resource Manual

Medicare: Resource Information and Guidelines For The Skilled Nursing Facility is a must for Medicare providers. This detailed operation guide covers consolidated billing, certification requirements, RUG III payments, Medicare coverage guidelines, expedited review process, compliance issues, and much more. Price: \$295. Updates are through a subscription service. For more information or to place an order contact Ed Roberts at 770-529-3241.

ICD-9-CM Annual Update

The CMS annual update of ICD-9-CM codes can be accessed at: www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/2006Trans/list.asp#TopOfPage.

Psychosocial Outcome Severity Guide Delayed

CMS delayed the June 1, 2006 implementation of the Psychosocial Outcome Severity Guide to June 8, 2006. The final copy of the Guide will be available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/> and incorporated into Appendix P of the State Operations Manual. (Source: S & C-06-20 dated June 15, 2006)

Provider Revalidation

Fiscal intermediaries will contact facilities to notify them when the validation paperwork is required. However, effective June 5, 2006, new facilities or facilities that need to update/change enrollment information are required to use the new 855 form. The National Provider Identifier (NPI) number is required on this form. Facilities that are not making changes do not have to complete a new 855.

National Provider Identifier (NPI)

National Provider Identifiers (NPIs) will be required on claims sent on or after May 23, 2007. Learn more about the NPI or how to apply for an NPI by visiting <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProviderStand/> on the CMS web site.

Expedited Review Q&A

Q. The expedited determination notices seem to overlap with the current instructions related to ABNs. Will CMS be modifying the ABN instructions?

A. Yes. CMS is reviewing the instructions applicable to ABNs to make any necessary changes. Until new instructions are finalized and released, providers should continue to follow currently published ABN instructions and provide the expedited determination notices when required by the separate instructions in this process. (Source: *Expedited Determination Process For Original Medicare Questions and Answers, March 2006*)

Disclaimer: The information contained in this bulletin is for general guidance only. Every reasonable effort has been made to assure the accuracy of the information. Mauldin & Jenkins disclaims all responsibility (including negligence) for all consequences of any person acting on, or refraining from acting on, information contained in this bulletin.