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The Healthcare Bulletin

RAI Update

CMS has released a March update to the Resident Assessment Instrument User's (RAI) Manual. The update can be accessed at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/nursinghomequalityinits/20_nhqimds20.asp?

MDS Corrections

Providers and MDS coordinators should ensure they follow the CMS Correction Policy at <https://www.qtso.com/mdsdownload.html> when making corrections to the MDS.

Part B Ancillary Claims

When a Part A payment is not possible (e.g., the beneficiary's benefits have been exhausted or the inpatient SNF stay is partially non-covered), some or all services provided in the non-covered period, if medically necessary, may be covered as ancillary services under Part B.

When submitting a Part B claim to the Medicare Contractor that contain therapy services (physical therapy, speech language pathology services, and occupational therapy), the claim may be rejected inappropriately when they fall within partially non-covered periods. It is best to make sure the Part A no pay claim is processed before submitting the Part B ancillary claim for payment.

Please note the Medicare Contractor will adjust claims that were denied erroneously if the provider brings it to their attention.

Medicaid Integrity Program

The Medicaid Integrity Program (MIP) is CMS's first national strategy to detect and prevent Medicaid fraud and abuse in the program's history. Effective January 1, 2007, entities who receive or make annual Medicaid payments of 5 million dollars must educate staff and develop written policies and procedures to detect waste, fraud, and abuse. An effective compliance program is an entity's best protection.

Rehabilitation Documentation Guidelines

Transmittal 65 updates Chapters 1 and 8 of the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual. This update, with an effective date of April 1 and an implementation date of April 2, includes the rules for documentation of medical necessity. With the exception of some differences the documentation requirements are the same for Medicare Part A and Part B therapy services. The transmittal can be accessed at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R65BP.pdf>.

Resident Assessment Instrument (RAI) Minimum Data Set (MDS) 2.0 Web-based Training

MDS Version 2.0 web-based training (WBT) is available at www.mdstraining.org. The MDS WBT is a comprehensive training tool designed to provide clinicians and other interdisciplinary professionals with detailed instructions on completing the Long-Term Care RAI, MDS 2.0. The information in the *Revised Long-Term Care Facility Resident Assessment Instrument User's Manual, MDS version 2.0* is presented in an interactive and easily navigated manner in the CMS MDS WBT. (Source: S&C-07-03)

Hospice Patients Who Are Admitted to a SNF

"Medicare beneficiaries who have elected the hospice benefit are not covered by the inpatient Part A SNF benefit, therefore the SNF PPS rules do not apply unless that beneficiary is admitted for a non-hospice related illness. If the beneficiary is admitted for a non-hospice related illness, the SNF must follow the Medicare required assessment schedule and also must perform off-cycle assessments, when required, in order to bill the fiscal intermediary using the HIPPS rate code." (Source: *Provider Reimbursement Manual*)

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