



News Flash - The *Adult Immunizations* (October 2008) brochure for health care providers has been updated and is now available in downloadable PDF format from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Medicare Learning Network. This brochure provides an overview of Medicare's coverage of influenza, pneumococcal, and hepatitis B vaccines and their administration. To view, download, and print, please go to http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/Adult_Immunization.pdf on the CMS website.

MLN Matters Number: MM6328

Related Change Request (CR) #: 6328

Related CR Release Date: December 31, 2008

Effective Date: January 1, 2009

Related CR Transmittal #: R1656CP

Implementation Date: January 5, 2009

Claim Status Category Code and Claim Status Code Update

Provider Types Affected

Physicians, providers, and suppliers who bill Medicare contractors (carriers, fiscal intermediaries (FI), regional home health intermediaries (RHHI), Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MAC), and Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractors (DME MAC) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

Provider Action Needed

Change Request (CR) 6328, from which this article is taken, reminds providers of the periodic updates to the Claim Status Codes and Claim Status Category Codes that Medicare contractors use with the Health Care Claim Status Request (ASC X12N 276), and the Health Care Claim Response (ASC X12N 277).

Background

The Claim Category and Claim Status Codes explain the status of submitted claims. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requires

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all health care benefit payers to use only national Code Maintenance Committee-approved codes in the X12 276/277 Health Care Claim Status Request and Response transactions.

The national Code Maintenance Committee meets at the beginning of each X12 trimester meeting (February, June, and October) to decide about additions, modifications, and retirement of existing codes. Included in the code lists are specific details, including the date when a code was added, changed, or deleted.

CR 6328 updates the changes in the Claim Status Codes and Claim Status Category Codes from the June, 2008 committee meeting. These updates were posted at <http://www.wpc-edj.com/content/view/180/223/> on June 30, 2008. Medicare contractors must have completed the entry of all applicable code text changes and new codes, and terminated the use of deactivated codes by January 5, 2009. On and after this date, these code changes are to be used in editing of all X12 276 transactions processed and must be reflected in the X12 277 transactions issued.

Additional Information

If you have questions, please contact your Medicare contractor at their toll-free number which may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website. The official instruction (CR6328) issued to your Medicare MAC, carrier, DME MAC, FI, and/or RHHI is available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1656CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

News Flash - It's Not Too Late to Get the Flu Shot. We are in the midst of flu season and a flu vaccine is still the best way to prevent infection and the complications associated with the flu. Re-vaccination is necessary each year because flu viruses change each year. So please encourage your Medicare patients who haven't already done so to get their annual flu shot--and don't forget to immunize yourself and your staff. Protect yourself, your patients, and your family and friends. **Get Your Flu Shot – Not the Flu! Remember** - Influenza vaccine plus its administration are covered Part B benefits. Note that influenza vaccine is NOT a Part D covered drug. Health care professionals and their staff can learn more about Medicare's coverage of the influenza vaccine and other Medicare Part B covered vaccines and related provider education resources created by the CMS Medicare Learning Network (MLN), by reviewing Special Edition *MLN Matters* article SE0838 at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0838.pdf> on the CMS website.

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