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| CMS Manual System | Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) |
| Pub 100-04 Medicare Claims Processing | Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) |
| Transmittal 13074 | Date: March 13, 2025 |
| | Change Request 13882 |

SUBJECT: Principal Diagnosis Code Reporting Update for Hospice and Manual Updates to Sections 30.3, 40.2, and 50 of Chapter 11 of the Claims Processing Manual: Processing Hospice Claims

I. SUMMARY OF CHANGES: The purpose of this Change Request (CR) is to provide an updated list of unacceptable principal diagnosis codes under the hospice benefit. The CR also updates section 30.3 of chapter 11 of the Claims Processing Manual, to provide updated guidance regarding non-reportable principal diagnosis codes, section 40.2, to provide clarification of liability for claim denials during a hospice election, and section 50, to include “related conditions” so that the Manual is consistent with Federal Regulations and the Federal Register.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 1, 2025 - for claims received on or after 4/1/25

**Unless otherwise specified, the effective date is the date of service.*

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: April 7, 2025 - Non- System Requirements; July 7, 2025 - FISS Requirements

Disclaimer for manual changes only: The revision date and transmittal number apply only to red italicized material. Any other material was previously published and remains unchanged. However, if this revision contains a table of contents, you will receive the new/revised information only, and not the entire table of contents.

II. CHANGES IN MANUAL INSTRUCTIONS: (N/A if manual is not updated)

R=REVISED, N=NEW, D=DELETED-Only One Per Row.

| R/N/D | CHAPTER / SECTION / SUBSECTION / TITLE |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| R | 11/30.3/ Data Required on the Institutional Claim to A/B MAC (HHH) |
| R | 11/40.2/ Processing Professional Claims for Hospice Beneficiaries |
| R | 11/50/ Billing and Payment for Services Unrelated to Terminal Illness |

III. FUNDING:

For Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs):

The Medicare Administrative Contractor is hereby advised that this constitutes technical direction as defined in your contract. CMS does not construe this as a change to the MAC Statement of Work. The contractor is not obligated to incur costs in excess of the amounts allotted in your contract unless and until specifically authorized by the Contracting Officer. If the contractor considers anything provided, as described above, to be outside the current scope of work, the contractor shall withhold performance on the part(s) in question and immediately notify the Contracting Officer, in writing or by e-mail, and request formal directions regarding continued performance requirements.

IV. ATTACHMENTS:

**Business Requirements
Manual Instruction**

Attachment - Business Requirements

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
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II. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Background: The principal diagnosis is defined in the Uniform Hospital Discharge Data Set (UHDDS) as “that condition established after study to be chiefly responsible for occasioning the admission of the patient to the hospital for care.” The UHDDS definitions also apply to hospice services (all levels of care). In other words, hospices are to report the principal diagnosis on the claim as the diagnosis most contributory to the terminal prognosis. However, the FY 2025 ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting state, “codes for symptoms, signs, and ill-defined conditions from Chapter 18 are not to be used as principal diagnosis when a related definitive diagnosis has been established.”

When diagnosis codes are considered as supplementary or additional codes for reporting, they are unacceptable to be reported as principal diagnoses. The Medicare Code Editor (MCE) and Integrated Outpatient Code Editor (I/OCE) is used to detect claim errors, including unacceptable principal diagnosis codes. The unacceptable principal diagnosis list is defined by the MCE and if an unacceptable principal diagnosis is reported as the principal diagnosis on a claim, the claim is returned to the provider. Therefore, hospice providers may not report diagnosis codes that are listed on the MCE unacceptable principal diagnosis list. The I/OCE is updated quarterly and can be found at <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/coding-billing/outpatient-code-editor-occe/quarterly-release-files>. The Data_DX10 table can be used to reference the list of diagnosis codes applicable to the MCE Unacceptable principal diagnosis list.

Hospice providers must also follow ICD-10-CM coding conventions in the ICD-10-CM, the Tabular List and Alphabetic Index, and official coding guidelines. For example, the ICD-10-CM has a coding convention that requires the underlying condition be sequenced first, if applicable, followed by the manifestation. Wherever such a combination exists, there is a “use additional code” note at the etiology code, and a “code first” note at the manifestation code. These instructional notes indicate the proper sequencing order of the codes, etiology followed by manifestation. An example of the etiology/manifestation convention is dementia with Parkinson’s disease. In the Alphabetic Index, a code from category G20 is listed first, followed by code F02.80 or F02.81- in brackets. A code from category G20- represents the underlying etiology, Parkinson’s disease, and must be sequenced first, whereas codes F02.80 and F02.81- represent the manifestation of dementia in diseases

classified elsewhere, with or without behavioral disturbance. “Code first” and “Use additional code” notes are also used as sequencing rules in the classification for certain codes that are not part of an etiology/ manifestation combination.

In addition to the MCE unacceptable principal diagnosis list and the ICD-10-CM coding conventions, there are additional diagnosis codes which are not appropriate as principal diagnosis under the Medicare hospice benefit. For example, codes that describe “debility” and “failure to thrive” do not accurately describe the terminal illness of a hospice patient. See section 30.3 of chapter 11 of the Claims Processing Manual for updated guidance of non-reportable principal diagnosis codes to be returned to the providers for correction if reported.

Also, see section 40.2 of chapter 11 of the Claims Processing Manual, which provides clarification of liability for claim denials during a hospice election when the GV or GW modifier or condition code 07 is missing from the claim. When a beneficiary elects care under the Medicare hospice benefit, hospices are required to provide all items and services needed for the palliation and management of the terminal illness and related conditions. The regulations at 42 CFR 418.202 describe the covered services under the Medicare hospice benefit. Further, the regulations at 42 CFR 418.402 state that Medicare payment to the hospice discharges an individual's liability for payment for all services, other than the hospice coinsurance amounts described in §418.400, that are considered covered hospice care (as described in §418.202). The individual is liable for the Medicare deductibles and coinsurance payments and for the difference between the reasonable and actual charge on unassigned claims on other covered services that are not considered hospice care.

For services unrelated to the terminal illness, claims are submitted with the GW modifier or the condition code 07. For services related to the terminal illness provided by the attending physician, the attending physician appends the GV modifier. Services related to the terminal illness provided by someone other than the patient-designated attending physician are not separately payable. The patient is not liable for the charges. For services unrelated to the terminal illness or related conditions or treatment of a non-terminal condition, claims are submitted using either the GW modifier (professional claims) or condition code 07 (institutional claims). For services related to the patient’s terminal illness and related conditions furnished by the designated attending physician, claims are submitted using the GV modifier. Any claims missing the GW or GV modifier or condition code 07 will be denied.

Lastly, see section 50, which is being updated so that chapter 11 of the Claims Processing Manual is consistent with Federal Regulations and the Federal Register.

B. Policy: The principal diagnosis reported on the claim should be the diagnosis most contributory to the terminal prognosis. When any of the diagnosis codes listed on the MCE unacceptable principal diagnosis list are reported as a principal diagnosis, the claim will be returned to the provider for a more definitive hospice diagnosis. Additionally, when any of the ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes that cannot be used as the principal diagnosis according to ICD-10-CM Coding Guidelines that require further compliance with various ICD-10-CM coding conventions (e.g., etiology/manifestation) the claim will be returned to the provider for a more definitive hospice diagnosis.

The codes in Attachment A would cause the claim to return to provider, as these codes are unacceptable as principal diagnosis under the Medicare Hospice benefit. Unspecified codes are only to be used when the medical record, at the time of the encounter, is insufficient to assign a more specific code. However, it is recognized that the underlying condition causing the disease may be difficult to code because the medical record may not provide sufficient information. Hospice providers are encouraged to look at the coding conventions under the disease classification for coding conditions on hospice claims. If any of these diagnoses are reported as a principal diagnosis, the claim will be returned to the provider for a more definitive hospice diagnosis.

Liability for Claim Denials during a Hospice Election

It is the responsibility of all Medicare-certified providers to check the Medicare status of each Medicare beneficiary when rendering and billing for services, a claim missing the GW or GV modifier or condition code 07 would be denied as provider liability. Please see below:

- GV modifier- Indicates that the attending physician is not employed or paid under arrangement by the patient’s hospice provider. This modifier is used by the attending physician when the services are related to the patient’s terminal condition and not paid under arrangement by the patient’s hospice provider
- GW modifier- Indicates the services provided are not related to the hospice patient’s terminal condition
- Condition code 07- Indicates a treatment of a non-terminal condition, not related to the hospice patient’s terminal condition

III. BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS TABLE

"Shall" denotes a mandatory requirement, and "should" denotes an optional requirement.

| Number | Requirement | Responsibility | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---|-------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------|--|------|
| | | A/B MAC | | | D M E M A C | Shared-System Maintainers | | | | Other | | |
| | | A | B | H H H | | F I S S | M C S | V M S | C W F | | | |
| 13882.1 | The contractors shall be aware of the manual updates in Pub. 100-04, Chapter 11, Sections 30.3, 40.2, and 50. | | | X | | | | | | | | |
| 13882.2 | The contractors shall revise the hospice diagnosis code edit to reflect the list provided in attachment A. | | | | | | | | | | | IOCE |
| 13882.2.1 | The contractors shall continue return to the provider (RTP) claims editing for the non-reportable hospice diagnosis code. | | | X | | | | | | | | |
| 13882.3 | The contractors shall deactivate hospice diagnosis reason code edit 30727. Hospice claims submitted with an invalid/unacceptable principal diagnosis code will receive an IOCE edit. | | | X | | X | | | | | | |

IV. PROVIDER EDUCATION

Medicare Learning Network® (MLN): CMS will develop and release national provider education content and market it through the MLN Connects® newsletter shortly after we issue the CR. MACs shall link to relevant information on your website and follow IOM Pub. No. 100-09 Chapter 6, Section 50.2.4.1 for distributing the newsletter to providers. When you follow this manual section, you don’t need to separately track and report MLN content releases. You may supplement with your local educational content after we release the newsletter.

Impacted Contractors: A/B MAC Part HHH

V. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Section A: Recommendations and supporting information associated with listed requirements: N/A

"Should" denotes a recommendation.

| X-Ref Requirement Number | Recommendations or other supporting information: |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|

Section B: All other recommendations and supporting information:N/A

VI. CONTACTS

Post-Implementation Contact(s): Contact your Contracting Officer's Representative (COR).

VII. FUNDING

Section A: For Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs):

The Medicare Administrative Contractor is hereby advised that this constitutes technical direction as defined in your contract. CMS does not construe this as a change to the MAC Statement of Work. The contractor is not obligated to incur costs in excess of the amounts allotted in your contract unless and until specifically authorized by the Contracting Officer. If the contractor considers anything provided, as described above, to be outside the current scope of work, the contractor shall withhold performance on the part(s) in question and immediately notify the Contracting Officer, in writing or by e-mail, and request formal directions regarding continued performance requirements.

ATTACHMENTS: 1

Attachment A. Invalid Hospice Principal Diagnosis Codes

| ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Code | ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Code Description |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| F02.80 | Dementia in other diseases classified elsewhere, unspecified severity, without behavioral disturbance, psychotic disturbance, mood disturbance, and anxiety |
| F02.811 | Dementia in other diseases classified elsewhere, unspecified severity, with agitation |
| F02.818 | Dementia in other diseases classified elsewhere, unspecified severity, with other behavioral disturbance |
| F02.82 | Dementia in other diseases classified elsewhere, unspecified severity, with psychotic disturbance |
| F02.83 | Dementia in other diseases classified elsewhere, unspecified severity, with mood disturbance |
| F02.84 | Dementia in other diseases classified elsewhere, unspecified severity, with anxiety |
| F02.A0 | Dementia in other diseases classified elsewhere, mild, without behavioral disturbance, psychotic disturbance, mood disturbance, and anxiety |
| F02.A11 | Dementia in other diseases classified elsewhere, mild, with agitation |
| F02.A18 | Dementia in other diseases classified elsewhere, mild, with other behavioral disturbance |
| F02.A2 | Dementia in other diseases classified elsewhere, mild, with psychotic disturbance |
| F02.A3 | Dementia in other diseases classified elsewhere, mild, with mood disturbance |
| F02.A4 | Dementia in other diseases classified elsewhere, mild, with anxiety |
| F02.B0 | Dementia in other diseases classified elsewhere, moderate, without behavioral disturbance, psychotic disturbance, mood disturbance, and anxiety |
| F02.B11 | Dementia in other diseases classified elsewhere, moderate, with agitation |
| F02.B18 | Dementia in other diseases classified elsewhere, moderate, with other behavioral disturbance |
| F02.B2 | Dementia in other diseases classified elsewhere, moderate, with psychotic disturbance |
| F02.B3 | Dementia in other diseases classified elsewhere, moderate, with mood disturbance |
| F02.B4 | Dementia in other diseases classified elsewhere, moderate with anxiety |
| F02.C0 | Dementia in other diseases classified elsewhere, severe, without behavioral disturbance, psychotic disturbance, mood disturbance, and anxiety |
| F02.C11 | Dementia in other diseases classified elsewhere, severe, with agitation |
| F02.C18 | Dementia in other diseases classified elsewhere, severe, with other behavioral disturbance |
| F02.C2 | Dementia in other diseases classified elsewhere, severe, with psychotic disturbance |

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| F02.C3 | Dementia in other diseases classified elsewhere, severe, with mood disturbance |
| F02.C4 | Dementia in other diseases classified elsewhere, severe with anxiety |
| F03.90 | Unspecified dementia, unspecified severity, without behavioral disturbance, psychotic disturbance, mood disturbance, and anxiety |
| F03.91 | Unspecified dementia, unspecified severity, with behavioral disturbance |
| F03.911 | Unspecified dementia, unspecified severity, with agitation |
| F03.918 | Unspecified dementia, unspecified severity, with other behavioral disturbance |
| F03.92 | Unspecified dementia, unspecified severity, with psychotic disturbance |
| F03.93 | Unspecified dementia, unspecified severity, with mood disturbance |
| F03.94 | Unspecified dementia, unspecified severity, with anxiety |
| F03.A0 | Unspecified dementia, mild, without behavioral disturbance, psychotic disturbance, mood disturbance, and anxiety |
| F03.A11 | Unspecified dementia, mild, with agitation |
| F03.A18 | Unspecified dementia, mild, with other behavioral disturbance |
| F03.A2 | Unspecified dementia, mild, with psychotic disturbance |
| F03.A3 | Unspecified dementia, mild, with mood disturbance |
| F03.A4 | Unspecified dementia, mild, with anxiety |
| F03.B0 | Unspecified dementia, moderate, without behavioral disturbance, psychotic disturbance, mood disturbance, and anxiety |
| F03.B11 | Unspecified dementia, moderate, with agitation |
| F03.B18 | Unspecified dementia, moderate, with other behavioral disturbance |
| F03.B2 | Unspecified dementia, moderate, with psychotic disturbance |
| F03.B3 | Unspecified dementia, moderate, with mood disturbance |
| F03.B4 | Unspecified dementia, moderate, with anxiety |
| F03.C0 | Unspecified dementia, severe, without behavioral disturbance, psychotic disturbance, mood disturbance, and anxiety |
| F03.C11 | Unspecified dementia, severe, with agitation |
| F03.C18 | Unspecified dementia, severe, with other behavioral disturbance |
| F03.C2 | Unspecified dementia, severe, with psychotic disturbance |
| F03.C3 | Unspecified dementia, severe, with mood disturbance |
| F03.C4 | Unspecified dementia, severe, with anxiety |
| F05. (note currently on the FY 2025 MCE unacceptable pdx list) | Delirium due to known physiological condition |
| F06.0 | Psychotic disorder with hallucinations due to known physiological condition |
| F06.1 | Catatonic disorder due to known physiological condition |
| F06.2 | Psychotic disorder with delusions due to known physiological condition |
| F06.3 | Mood disorder due to known physiological condition |
| F06.30 | Mood disorder due to known physiological condition, unspecified |
| F06.31 | Mood disorder due to known physiological condition with depressive features |
| F06.32 | Mood disorder due to known physiological condition with major depressive-like episode |

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| F06.33 | Mood disorder due to known physiological condition with manic features |
| F06.34 | Mood disorder due to known physiological condition with mixed features |
| F06.8 | Other specified mental disorders due to known physiological condition |
| F07.0 | Personality change due to known physiological condition |
| F07.81 | Postconcussional syndrome |
| F07.89 (note currently on the FY 2025 MCE unacceptable pdx list) | Other personality and behavioral disorders due to known physiological condition |
| F07.9 | Unspecified personality and behavioral disorder due to known physiological condition |
| F09. | Unspecified mental disorder due to known physiological condition |
| R53.81 | Other malaise |
| R53.82 | Chronic fatigue, unspecified |
| R53.83 | Other fatigue |
| R54. | Age-related physical debility |
| R62.7 | Adult failure to thrive |

Medicare Claims Processing Manual

Chapter 11 - Processing Hospice Claims

(Rev. 13074; Issued: 03-13-25)

30.3 - Data Required on the Institutional Claim to A/B MAC (HHH)

(Rev. 13074; Issued: 03-13-25; Effective: 04-01-25; Implementation: 04-07-25)

See Pub. 100-02, Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, chapter 9, for coverage requirements for Hospice benefits. This section addresses only claims submission. Before submitting claims, the hospice must submit a Notice of Election (NOE) to the A/B MAC (HHH). See section 20, of this chapter for information on NOE transaction types.

The Social Security Act at §1862 (a)(22) requires that all claims for Medicare payment must be submitted in an electronic form specified by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, unless an exception described at §1862 (h) applies. The electronic format required for billing hospice services is the ASC X12 837 institutional claim transaction.

Since the data structure of this transaction is difficult to express in narrative form and to provide assistance to small providers excepted from the electronic claim requirement, the instructions below are given relative to the data element names on the Form CMS-1450 hardcopy form. Each data element name is shown in bold type. Information regarding the form locator numbers that correspond to these data element names is found in Chapter 25.

Because claim formats serve the needs of many payers, some data elements may not be needed by a particular payer. Detailed information is given only for items required for Medicare hospice claims. Items not listed need not be completed although hospices may complete them when billing multiple payers.

Provider Name, Address, and Telephone Number

The hospice enters this information for their agency.

Type of Bill

The hospice enters on of the following Type of Bill codes:

081x – Hospice (non-hospital based)

082x – Hospice (hospital based)

| 4th Digit – Frequency | Definition |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 0 - Nonpayment/Zero Claims | Used when no payment from Medicare is anticipated. |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 - Admit Through Discharge Claim | This code is used for a bill encompassing an entire course of hospice treatment for which the provider expects payment from the payer, i.e., no further bills will be submitted for this patient. |
| 2 - Interim – First Claim | This code is used for the first of an expected series of payment bills for a hospice course of treatment. |
| 3 - Interim - Continuing Claim | This code is used when a payment bill for a hospice course of treatment has already been submitted and further bills are expected to be submitted. |
| 4th Digit – Frequency | Definition |
| 4 - Interim - Last Claim | This code is used for a payment bill that is the last of a series for a hospice course of treatment. The “Through” date of this bill is the discharge date, transfer date, or date of death. |
| 7 - Replacement of Prior Claim | This code is used by the provider when it wants to correct a previously submitted bill. This is the code used on the corrected or “new” bill. |
| 8 - Void/Cancel of a Prior Claim | This code is used to cancel a previously processed claim. |

Statement Covers Period (From-Through)

The hospice shows the beginning and ending dates of the period covered by this bill in numeric fields (MM-DD-YY). The hospice does not show days before the patient’s entitlement began.

Statement periods should follow the frequency of billing instructions in section 90.

Patient Name/Identifier

The hospice enters the beneficiary’s name exactly as it appears on the Medicare card.

Patient Address Patient Birth date Patient Sex

The hospice enters the appropriate address, date of birth and gender information describing the beneficiary.

Admission/Start of Care Date

The hospice enters the admission date, which must be the same date as the effective date of the hospice election or change of election. The date of admission may not precede the physician's certification by more than 2 calendar days.

The admission date stays the same on all continuing claims for the same hospice election.

Patient Discharge Status

This code indicates the patient's status as of the "Through" date of the billing period. The hospice enters the most appropriate National Uniform Billing Committee (NUBC) approved code.

NOTE: that patient discharge status code 20 is not used on hospice claims. If the patient has died during the billing period, use codes 40, 41 or 42 as appropriate.

Medicare regulations at 42 CFR 418.26 define three reasons for discharge from hospice care:

- 1) The beneficiary moves out of the hospice's service area or transfers to another hospice,
- 2) The hospice determines that the beneficiary is no longer terminally ill or
- 3) The hospice determines the beneficiary meets their internal policy regarding discharge for cause.

Each of these discharge situations requires different coding on Medicare claims. Reason 1: A beneficiary may move out of the hospice's service area either with, or without, a transfer to another hospice. In the case of a discharge when the beneficiary moves out of the hospice's service area without a transfer, the hospice uses the NUBC approved discharge status code that best describes the beneficiary's situation and appends condition code 52. The hospice does not report occurrence code 42 on their claim. This discharge claim will terminate the beneficiary's current hospice benefit period as of the "Through" date on the claim. The beneficiary may re-elect the hospice benefit at any time as long they remain eligible for the benefit.

In the case of a discharge when the beneficiary moves out of the hospice's service area and transfers to another hospice, the hospice uses discharge status code 50 or 51, depending on whether the beneficiary is transferring to home hospice or hospice in a medical facility. The hospice does not report occurrence code 42 on their claim. This discharge claim does not terminate the beneficiary's current hospice benefit period. The admitting hospice submits a transfer Notice of Election (type of bill 8xC) after the transfer has occurred and the beneficiary's hospice benefit is not affected.

Reason 2: In the case of a discharge when the hospice determines the beneficiary is no longer terminally ill, the hospice uses the NUBC approved discharge status code that best describes the beneficiary's situation. The hospice does not report occurrence code 42 on their claim. This discharge claim will terminate the beneficiary's current hospice benefit period as of the "Through" date on the claim.

Reason 3: In the case of a discharge for cause, the hospice uses the NUBC approved discharge status code that best describes the beneficiary’s situation. The hospice does not report occurrence code 42 on their claim. Instead, the hospice reports condition code H2 to indicate a discharge for cause. The effect of this discharge claim on the beneficiary’s current hospice benefit period depends on the discharge status.

If the beneficiary is transferred to another hospice (discharge status codes 50 or 51) the claim does not terminate the beneficiary’s current hospice benefit period. The admitting hospice submits a transfer Notice of Election (type of bill 8xC) after the transfer has occurred and the beneficiary’s hospice benefit is not affected. If any other appropriate discharge status code is used, this discharge claim will terminate the beneficiary’s current hospice benefit period as of the “Through” date on the claim. The beneficiary may reelect the hospice benefit if they are certified as terminally ill and eligible for the benefit again in the future and are willing to be compliant with care.

If the beneficiary has chosen to revoke their hospice election, the provider uses the NUBC approved discharge patient status code and the occurrence code 42 indicating the date the beneficiary revoked the benefit. The beneficiary may re-elect the hospice benefit if they are certified as terminally ill and eligible for the benefit again in the future.

| Discharge Reason | Coding Required in Addition to Patient Status Code |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Beneficiary Moves Out of Service Area | Condition Code 52 |
| Beneficiary Transfers Hospices | Patient Status Code 50 or 51; no other indicator |
| Beneficiary No Longer Terminally Ill | No other indicator |
| Beneficiary Discharged for Cause | Condition code H2 |
| Beneficiary Revokes | Occurrence code 42 |

If a hospice beneficiary is discharged alive or if a hospice beneficiary revokes the election of hospice care, the hospice shall file a timely-filed Notice of Election Termination / Revocation (NOTR) using type of bill 8xB, unless it has already filed a final claim. A timely-filed NOTR is a NOTR that is submitted to the A/B MAC (HHH) and accepted by the A/B MAC (HHH) within 5 calendar days after the effective date of discharge or revocation. While a timely-filed NOTR is one that is submitted to and accepted by the A/B MAC (HHH) within 5 calendar days after the hospice election, posting to the CWF may not occur within that same timeframe. The date of posting to the CWF is not a reflection of whether the NOTR is considered timely filed. A NOTR (type of bill 8xB) is entered via Direct Data Entry in the same way as an NOE (type of

bill 8xA). Hospices continue to have 12 months from the date of service in which to file their claims timely.

A patient can also be admitted and discharged on the same day. They would submit an 8x1 Type of Bill (“Admission through Discharge Claim”), matching “From” and “Through” dates, and whatever the appropriate level of care the revenue code was, with 1 unit. A patient cannot be discharged and re-admitted to the same hospice on the same day.

Untimely Face-to-Face Encounters and Discharge

When a required face-to-face encounter occurs prior to, but no more than 30 calendar days prior to, the third benefit period recertification and every benefit period recertification thereafter, it is considered timely. A timely face-to-face encounter would be evident when examining the face-to-face attestation, which is part of the recertification, as that attestation includes the date of the encounter. While the face-to-face encounter itself must occur no more than 30 calendar days prior to the start of the third benefit period recertification and each subsequent recertification, its accompanying attestation must be completed before the claim is submitted.

If the required face-to-face encounter is not timely, the hospice would be unable to recertify the patient as being terminally ill, and the patient would cease to be eligible for the Medicare hospice benefit. In such instances, the hospice must discharge the patient from the Medicare hospice benefit because he or she is not considered terminally ill for Medicare purposes.

When a discharge from the Medicare hospice benefit occurs due to failure to perform a required face-to-face encounter timely, the claim should include the most appropriate patient discharge status code. Occurrence span code 77 does not apply when the face-to-face encounter has not occurred timely.

The hospice can re-admit the patient to the Medicare hospice benefit once the required encounter occurs, provided the patient continues to meet all of the eligibility requirements and the patient (or representative) files an election statement in accordance with CMS regulations. Where the only reason the patient ceases to be eligible for the Medicare hospice benefit is the hospice’s failure to meet the face-to-face requirement, CMS would expect the hospice to continue to care for the patient at its own expense until the required encounter occurs, enabling the hospice to re-establish Medicare eligibility.

Condition Codes

The hospice enters any appropriate NUBC approved code(s) identifying conditions related to this bill that may affect processing.

Codes listed below are only those most frequently applicable to hospice claims. For a complete list of codes, see the NUBC manual.

| | | |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 07 | Treatment of Nonterminal Condition for Hospice | Code indicates the patient has elected hospice care, but the provider is not treating the terminal condition, and is, therefore, requesting regular Medicare payment. |
| 20 | Beneficiary Requested Billing | Code indicates the provider realizes the services on this bill are at a noncovered level of care or otherwise excluded from coverage, but the beneficiary has requested a formal determination. |
| 21 | Billing for Denial Notice | Code indicates the provider realizes services are at a noncovered level of care or excluded, but requests a denial notice from Medicare in order to bill Medicaid or other insurers. |
| H2 | Discharge by a Hospice Provider for Cause | Discharge by a Hospice Provider for Cause. NOTE: Used by the provider to indicate the patient meets the hospice's documented policy addressing discharges for cause. |
| 52 | Out of Hospice Service Area | Code indicates the patient is discharged for moving out of the hospice service area. This can include patients who relocate or who go on vacation outside of the hospice's service area, or |
| | | patients who are admitted to a hospital or SNF that does not have contractual arrangements with the hospice. |
| 85 | Delayed recertification of hospice terminal illness | Code indicates the hospice received the recertification of terminal illness later than 2 days after the first day of a new benefit period. This code is reported with occurrence span code 77, which reports the provider liable days associated with the untimely recertification. |

Occurrence Codes and Dates

The hospice enters any appropriate NUBC approved code(s) and associated date(s) defining specific event(s) relating to this billing period. Event codes are two numeric digits, and dates are six numeric digits (MM-DD-YY). If there are more occurrences than there are spaces on the form, use the occurrence span code fields to record additional occurrences and dates.

Codes listed below are only those most frequently applicable to hospice claims. For a complete list of codes, see the NUBC manual.

| Code | Title | Definition |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 23 | Cancellation of Hospice Election Period (A/B MAC (HHH) USE ONLY) | Code indicates date on which a hospice period of election is cancelled by an A/B MAC (HHH) as opposed to revocation by the beneficiary. |
| 24 | Date Insurance Denied | Code indicates the date of receipt of a denial of coverage by a higher priority payer. |
| 27 | Date of Hospice Certification or Recertification | <p>Code indicates the date of certification or recertification of the hospice benefit period, beginning with the first 2 initial benefit periods of 90 days each and the subsequent 60-day benefit periods.</p> <p>The OC 27 code/date is only required on claims where initial certification or recertification occurs. CMS will not be conducting certifying/recertifying physician enrollment checks on physicians reported on claims that do not have occurrence code 27 and date reported.</p> <p>NOTE: regarding transfers from one hospice to another hospice: If a patient is in the first certification period when they transfer to another hospice, the receiving hospice would use the same certification date as the previous hospice until the next certification period. However, if they were in the next certification at the time of transfer, then they would enter that date in the Occurrence Code 27 and date.</p> |
| 42 | Date of Termination of Hospice Benefit | Enter code to indicate the date on which beneficiary terminated his/her election to receive hospice benefits. This code can be used only when the |
| | | beneficiary has revoked the benefit. It is not used in transfer situations. |
| 55 | Beneficiary is Deceased | Report the appropriate NUBC discharge status code that best describes the place in which the beneficiary died (40, 41, or 42). Discharge status code 20 is not used on hospice claims. |

Occurrence code 27 is required on the claim for the billing period in which the certification or re-certification was obtained. It may be optionally reported on other claims.

When the re-certification is late and not obtained during the month it was due, the occurrence span code 77 should be reported with the through date of the span code equal to the through date of the claim.

Occurrence Span Code and Dates

The hospice enters any appropriate NUBC approved code(s) and associated beginning and ending date(s) defining a specific event relating to this billing period are shown. Event codes are two alphanumeric digits and dates are shown numerically as MM-DDYY.

Codes listed below are only those most frequently applicable to hospice claims. For a complete list of codes, see the NUBC manual.

| Code | Title | Definition |
|-------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| M2 | Dates of Inpatient Respite Care | Code indicates From/Through dates of a period of inpatient respite care for hospice patients to differentiate separate respite periods of less than 5 days each. M2 is used when respite care is provided more than once during a billing period. |
| 77 | Provider Liability – Utilization Charged | Code indicates From/Through dates for a period of non-covered hospice care for which the provider accepts payment liability (other than for medical necessity or custodial care). |

Respite care is payable only for periods of respite up to 5 consecutive days. Claims reporting respite periods greater than 5 consecutive days will be returned to the provider. Days of respite care beyond 5 days must be billed at the appropriate home care rate for payment consideration.

For example: If the patient enters a respite period on July 1 and is returned to routine home care on July 6, the units of respite reported on the line item would be 5 representing July 1 through July 5, July 6 is reported as a day of routine home care regardless of the time of day entering respite or returning to routine home care.

When there is more than one respite period in the billing period, the provider must include the M2 occurrence span code for all periods of respite. The individual respite periods reported shall not exceed 5 days, including consecutive respite periods.

For example: If the patient enters a respite period on July 1 and is returned to routine home care on July 6 and later returns to respite care from July 15 to July 18, and

completes the month on routine home care, the provider must report two separate line items for the respite periods and two occurrence span code M2, as follows:

Revenue Line items:

- Revenue code 0655 with line item date of service 07/01/XX (for respite period July 1 through July 5) and line item units reported as 5
- Revenue code 0651 with line item date of service 07/06/XX (for routine home care July 6 through July 14) and line item units reported as 9
- Revenue code 0655 with line item date of service 07/15/XX (for respite period July 15 through 17th) and line item units reported as 3
- Revenue code 0651 with line item date of service 07/18/XX (for routine home care on date of discharge from respite through July 31 and line item units reported as 14.

Occurrence Span Codes:

- M2 0701XX – 07/05/XX
- M2 0715XX – 07/17/XX

Provider Liability Periods Using Occurrence Span Code 77: Hospices must use occurrence span code 77 to identify days of care that are not covered by Medicare due to:

- Untimely physician recertification. This is particularly important when the noncovered days fall at the beginning of a billing period other than the initial certification period.

Example:

A new benefit period begins on 6/14/20XX

The hospice is required to obtain the recertification (verbal or written) by 6/16/20XX.

The hospice obtains the recertification 6/19/20XX.

The hospice reports 6/14 – 6/18 as non-covered days using occurrence span code 77.

The hospice reports the date the certification was actually obtained, 6/19/20XX, in occurrence code 27.

Condition code 85 is only reported in this case because the certification was untimely.

- Late-filing of a Notice of Election (NOE). A timely-filed NOE is a NOE that is submitted to the A/B MAC (HHH) and accepted by the A/B MAC (HHH) within 5 calendar days after the hospice admission date. When the hospice files a NOE late, Medicare shall not cover and pay for the days of hospice care from the

hospice admission date to the date the NOE is submitted to and accepted by the A/B MAC (HHH). The date the NOE is submitted to and accepted by the A/B MAC (HHH) is an allowable day for payment.

Example:

Admission date is 10/10/20XX (Fri).

Day 1 = Sat. 10/11/20XX

Day 2 = Sun. 10/12/20XX

Day 3 = Mon. 10/13/20XX

Day 4 = Tues. 10/14/20XX

Day 5 = Weds. 10/15/20XX 10/15/20XX is the NOE Due Date.

IF NOE Receipt date is 10/16/20XX, the hospice reports 10/10- 10/15 as noncovered days using occurrence span code 77 or Medicare systems return the claim to the provider for correction.

Value Codes and Amounts

The hospice enters any appropriate NUBC approved code(s) and the associated value amounts identifying numeric information related to this bill that may affect processing. Provider-submitted codes:

The most commonly used value codes on hospice claims are value codes 61 and G8, which are used to report the location of the site of hospice services. Otherwise, value codes are commonly used only to indicate Medicare is secondary to another payer. For detailed information on reporting Medicare secondary payer information, see the Medicare Secondary Payer Manual.

| Code | Title | Definition |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 61 | Place of Residence where Service is Furnished (Routine Home Care and Continuous Home Care) | <p>MSA or Core-Based Statistical Area (CBSA) number (or rural State code) of the location where the hospice service is delivered.</p> <p>A residence can be an inpatient facility if an individual uses that facility as a place of residence. It is the level of care that is required and not the location where hospice services are provided that determines payment. In other words, if an individual resides in a freestanding hospice facility and requires routine home care, then claims are submitted for routine home care.</p> <p>Hospices must report value code 61 when billing revenue codes 0651 and 0652.</p> |

| | | |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| G8 | Facility where Inpatient Hospice Service is Delivered (General Inpatient and Inpatient Respite Care). | MSA or Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA) number (or rural State code) of the facility where inpatient hospice services are delivered. Hospices must report value code G8 when billing revenue codes 0655 and 0656. |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Medicare-applied codes: The following codes are added during processing and may be visible in the A/B MAC (HHH)'s online claim history. They are never submitted by the hospice.

| Code | Title | Definition |
|------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 62 | Number of High Routine Home Care Days | Days that fall within the first 60 days of a routine home care hospice claim. The Medicare system puts the high days returned by Pricer on the claim as a value code 62 amount. |
| 63 | Number of Low Routine Home Care Days | Days that come after the first 60 days of a routine home care hospice claim. The Medicare system puts the low days returned by Pricer on the claim as a value code 63 amount. |

If hospice services are provided to the beneficiary in more than one CBSA area during the billing period, the hospice reports the CBSA that applies at the end of the billing period. For routine home care and continuous home care (e.g., the beneficiary's residence changes between locations in different CBSAs), report the CBSA of the beneficiary's residence at the end of the billing period. For general inpatient and inpatient respite care (e.g., the beneficiary is served in inpatient facilities in different CBSAs), report the CBSA of the latest facility that served the beneficiary. If the beneficiary receives both home and inpatient care during the billing period, the latest home CBSA is reported with value code 61 and the latest facility CBSA is reported with value code G8.

Revenue Codes

The hospice assigns a revenue code for each type of service provided and enters the appropriate four-digit numeric revenue code to explain each charge.

Hospice claims are required to report separate line items for the level of care each time the level of care changes. This includes revenue codes 0651, 0655 and 0656. For example, if a patient begins the month receiving routine home care followed by a period of general inpatient care and then later returns to routine home care all in the same month, in addition to the one line reporting the general inpatient care days, there should be two separate line items for routine home care. Each routine home care line reports a

line item date of service to indicate the first date that level of care began for that consecutive period.

| Code | Description | Standard Abbreviation |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0651 | Routine Home Care | RTN Home |
| 0652 | Continuous Home Care | CTNS Home A minimum of 8 hours of primarily nursing care within a 24-hour period. The 8-hours of care do not need to be continuous within the 24-hour period, but a need for an aggregate of 8 hours of primarily nursing care is required. Nursing care must be provided by a registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse. If skilled intervention is required for less than 8 aggregate hours (or less than 32 units) within a 24 hour period, then the care rendered would be covered as a routine home care day. Services provided by a nurse practitioner as the attending physician are not included in the CHC computation nor is care that is not directly related to the crisis included in the computation. CHC billing should reflect direct patient care during a period of crisis and should not reflect time related to staff working hours, time taken for meal breaks, time used for educating staff, time used to report etc. |
| 0655** | Inpatient Respite Care | IP Respite |
| 0656** | General Inpatient Care | GNL IP |
| 0657 | Physician Services | PHY SER (must be accompanied by a physician procedure code) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ** The date of discharge from general inpatient or inpatient respite care is paid at the appropriate home care rate and must be billed with the appropriate home care revenue code unless the patient is deceased at time of discharge in which case, the appropriate inpatient respite or general inpatient care revenue code should be used. | | |

NOTE: Hospices use revenue code 0657 to identify hospice charges for services furnished to patients by physicians, nurse practitioners, or physician assistants employed by the hospice; or physicians, nurse practitioners or physician assistants receiving compensation from the hospice. Procedure codes are required in order for the A/B MAC (HHH) to determine the reimbursement rate for the physician services. Appropriate procedure codes are available from the A/B MAC (HHH).

Additional revenue codes are reported describing the visits provided under each level of care.

To constitute a visit, the discipline, (as defined above) must have provided care to the beneficiary. Services provided by a social worker to the beneficiary's family also constitute a visit. For example, documentation in the medical/clinical record, interdisciplinary group meetings, obtaining physician orders, rounds in a facility or any other activity that is not related to the provision of items or services to a beneficiary, do not count towards a visit to be placed on the claim. During an initial or comprehensive assessment, it would not be best practice to wait until later (after the clinician has left the home) to document the findings of an assessment or the interventions provided during a patient visit. It is recommended that this information be documented as close to the time of the assessment or intervention as possible. In addition, the visit must be reasonable and necessary for the palliation and management of the terminal illness and related conditions as described in the patient's plan of care.

If a hospice patient is receiving routine home care while residing in a nursing home, the hospice would record visits for all of its physicians, nurses, social workers, and home health aides who visit the patient to provide care for the palliation and management of the terminal illness and related conditions, as described in the patient's plan of care. In this example the nursing home is acting as the patient's home. Only the patient care provided by the hospice staff constitutes a visit.

When making the determination as to whether or not a particular visit should be reported, a hospice should consider whether the visit would have been reported, and how it would have been reported, if the patient were receiving RHC in his or her private home. If a group of tasks would normally be performed in a single visit to a patient living in his or her private home, then the hospice should count the tasks as a single visit for the patient residing in a facility. Hospices should not record a visit every time a staff member enters the patient's room. Hospices should use clinical judgment in counting visits and summing time.

Hospices report social worker phone calls and all visits performed by hospice staff in 15-minute increments using the following revenue codes and associated HCPCS. This includes visits by hospice nurses, aides, social workers, physical therapists, occupational therapists, and speech-language pathologists.

All visits to provide care related to the palliation and management of the terminal illness or related conditions, whether provided by hospice employees or provided under arrangement, must be reported. The two exceptions are related to General Inpatient Care and Respite care. CMS is not requiring hospices to report visit data at this time for visits made by non-hospice staff providing General Inpatient Care or respite care in contract facilities. However, General Inpatient Care or respite care visits related to the palliation and management of the terminal illness or related conditions provided by hospice staff in contract facilities must be reported, and all General Inpatient Care and respite care visits

related to the palliation and management of the terminal illness or related conditions provided in hospice-owned facilities must be reported.

Social worker phone calls made to the patient or the patient's family should be reported using revenue code 0569, and HCPCS G-code G0155 for the length of the call, with each call being a separate line item. Only phone calls that are necessary for the palliation and management of the terminal illness and related conditions as described in the patient's plan of care (such as counseling or speaking with a patient's family or arranging for a placement) should be reported. Report only social worker phone calls related to providing and or coordinating care to the patient and family and documented as such in the clinical records.

When recording any visit or social worker phone call time, providers should sum the time for each visit or call, rounding to the nearest 15-minute increment. Providers should not include travel time or documentation time in the time recorded for any visit or call. Additionally, hospices may not include interdisciplinary group time in time and visit reporting.

For dates of service before October 1, 2018, Hospice agencies shall report injectable and non-injectable prescription drugs for the palliation and management of the terminal illness and related conditions on their claims. Both injectable and non-injectable prescription drugs shall be reported on claims on a line-item basis per fill, based on the amount dispensed by the pharmacy.

When a facility (hospital, SNF, NF, or hospice inpatient facility) uses a medication management system where each administration of a hospice medication is considered a fill for hospice patients receiving care, the hospice shall report a monthly total for each drug (i.e., report a total for the period covered by the claim), along with the total dispensed.

Hospices shall report multi-ingredient compound prescription drugs (non-injectable) using revenue code 0250. The hospice shall specify the same prescription number for each ingredient of a compound drug according to the 837i guidelines in loop 2410. In addition, the hospice shall provide the NDC for each ingredient in the compound; the NDC qualifier represents the quantity of the drug filled (meaning the amount dispensed) and shall be reported as the unit measure.

When reporting prescription drugs in a comfort kit/pack, the hospice shall report the NDC of each prescription drug within the package, in accordance with the procedures for non-injectable prescriptions.

Hospice agencies shall report infusion pumps (a type of DME) on a line-item basis for each pump and for each medication fill and refill. The hospice claim shall reflect the total charge for the infusion pump for the period covered by the claim, whether the hospice is billed for it daily, weekly, biweekly, with each medication refill, or in some

other fashion. The hospice shall include on the claim the infusion pump charges on whatever basis is easiest for its billing systems, so long as in total, the claim reflects the charges for the pump for the time period of that claim.

Effective for dates of service on and after 10/1/2018, hospices are no longer required to report drugs using line item detail. Hospices may report summary charges for drugs as shown in the table below.

Hospices must enter the following visit revenue codes, when applicable:

| Revenue Code | Required HCPCS | Required Detail |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0250 Non-injectable Prescription Drugs | N/A | Required detail: Report on a line-item basis per fill, using revenue code 0250 and the National Drug Code (NDC). The NDC qualifier represents the quantity of the drug filled and should be reported as the unit measure. For dates of service on and after 10/1/2018: Report a monthly charge total for all drugs (i.e., report a total charge amount for the period covered by the claim) using revenue code 0250. |
| 029X Infusion pumps | Applicable HCPCS N/A | Required detail: Report on the claim on a line item basis per pump order and per medication refill, using revenue code 029X for the equipment and 0294 for the drugs along with the appropriate HCPCS. For dates of service on and after 10/1/18: Report a monthly charge total for infusion DME (i.e., report a total charge amount for the period covered by the claim), including DME infusion drugs, using revenue center 029X for the infusion pumps and 0294 for DME infusion drugs. |
| 042x Physical Therapy | G0151 or G0157 | Required detail: Each visit is identified on a separate line item with the appropriate line item date of service and a charge amount. The units reported on the claim are the multiplier for the total time of the visit defined in the HCPCS description. |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 043x Occupational Therapy | G0152 or G0158 | Required detail: Each visit is identified on a separate line item with the appropriate line item date of service and a charge amount. The units reported on the claim are the multiplier for the total time of the visit defined in the HCPCS description. |
| 044x Speech Therapy – Language Pathology | G0153 | Required detail: Each visit is identified on a separate line item with the appropriate line item date of service and a charge amount. The units reported on the claim are the multiplier for the total time of the visit defined in the HCPCS description. |
| 055x Skilled Nursing | G0299 or G0300 | Required detail: Each visit is identified on a separate line item with the appropriate line item date of service and a charge amount. The units reported on the claim are the multiplier for the total time of the visit defined in the HCPCS description. |
| 056x Medical Social Services | G0155 | Required detail: Each visit is identified on a separate line item with the appropriate line item date of service and a charge amount. The units reported on the claim are the multiplier for the total time of the visit defined in the HCPCS description. |
| 0569 Other Medical Social Services | G0155 | Required detail: Each social service phone call is identified on a separate line item with the appropriate line item date of service and a charge amount. The units reported on the claim are the multiplier for the total time of the call defined in the HCPCS description. |
| 057x Aide | G0156 | Required detail: Each visit is identified on a separate line item with the appropriate line item date of service and a charge amount. The units reported on the claim are the multiplier the total time of the visit defined in the HCPCS description. |
| 0636 Injectable Drugs | Applicable HCPCS | Required detail: Report on a line item basis per fill with units representing the amount filled. (i.e., Q1234 Drug 100mg and the fill was for 200 mg, units reported = 2). For dates of service on and after 10/1/2018: Revenue code 0636 is not required. |

* If revenue code 656 with HCPCS Q5006 is reported on a claim, then claim lines with a visit revenue code 055x, 056x, or 057x do not need a corresponding visit HCPCS codes if those lines fall under the general inpatient revenue code line (656/Q5006) dates.

Visits by registered nurses, licensed vocational nurses and nurse practitioners (unless the nurse practitioner is acting as the beneficiary’s attending physician) are reported under revenue code 055x. Hospices shall use G0299 for “direct skilled nursing services of a registered nurse (RN) in the home health or hospice setting” and G0300 “direct skilled nursing of a licensed practical nurse (LPN) in the home health or hospice setting.”

Charges associated with the reported visits are covered under the hospice bundled payment and reflected in the payment for the level of care billed on the claim. No additional payment is made on the visit revenue lines.

The contractor shall use the following remittance advice messages and associated codes when bundling line items under this policy. This CARC/RARC combination is compliant with CAQH CORE Business Scenario Four. Group Code: CO

CARC: 97

RARC: N/A

MSN: N/A

Hospices should report in the unit field on the line level the units as a multiplier of the visit time defined in the HCPCS description.

For information regarding the billing requirements for Coverage of Kidney Disease Patient Education Services under hospice see Chapter 32, §20.1).

HCPCS/Accommodation Rates/HIPPS Rate Codes

Hospices must report a HCPCS code along with each level of care revenue code (651, 652, 655 and 656) to identify the type of service location where that level of care was provided.

The following HCPCS codes will be used to report the type of service location for hospice services:

| HCPCS Code | Definition |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Q5001 | HOSPICE CARE PROVIDED IN PATIENT'S HOME/RESIDENCE |
| Q5002 | HOSPICE CARE PROVIDED IN ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY |
| Q5003 | HOSPICE CARE PROVIDED IN NURSING LONG TERM CARE FACILITY (LTC) OR NON-SKILLED NURSING FACILITY (NF) |
| Q5004 | HOSPICE CARE PROVIDED IN SKILLED NURSING FACILITY (SNF) |
| Q5005 | HOSPICE CARE PROVIDED IN INPATIENT HOSPITAL |

| | |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Q5006 | HOSPICE CARE PROVIDED IN INPATIENT HOSPICE FACILITY |
| Q5007 | HOSPICE CARE PROVIDED IN LONG TERM CARE HOSPITAL (LTCH) |
| Q5008 | HOSPICE CARE PROVIDED IN INPATIENT PSYCHIATRIC FACILITY |
| Q5009 | HOSPICE CARE PROVIDED IN PLACE NOT OTHERWISE SPECIFIED (NOS) |
| Q5010 | Hospice home care provided in a hospice facility |

If care is rendered at multiple locations, each location is to be identified on the claim with a corresponding HCPCS code. For example, routine home care may be provided for a portion of the billing period in the patient's residence and another portion in an assisted living facility. In this case, report one revenue code 651 line with HCPCS code Q5001 and the number of days of routine home care provided in the residence and another revenue code 651 line with HCPCS code Q5002 and the number of days of routine home care provided in the assisted living facility.

Q5004 shall be used for hospice patients in a skilled nursing facility (SNF), or hospice patients in the SNF portion of a dually-certified nursing facility. There are 4 situations where this would occur:

- 1) If the beneficiary is receiving hospice care in a solely-certified SNF.
- 2) If the beneficiary is receiving general inpatient care in the SNF.
- 3) If the beneficiary is in a SNF receiving SNF care under the Medicare SNF benefit for a condition unrelated to the terminal illness and related conditions, and is receiving hospice routine home care; this is uncommon.
- 4) If the beneficiary is receiving inpatient respite care in a SNF.

If a beneficiary is in a nursing facility but doesn't meet the criteria above for Q5004, the site shall be coded as Q5003, for a long term care nursing facility.

General inpatient care provided by hospice staff requires line item visit reporting in units of 15 minute increments when provided in the following sites of service: Skilled Nursing Facility (Q5004), Inpatient Hospital (Q5005), Long Term Care Hospital (Q5007), Inpatient Psychiatric Facility (Q5008).

These service location HCPCS codes are not required on revenue code lines describing the visits provided under each level of care. These lines report the HCPCS codes shown in the table under Revenue Codes.

Modifiers

The following modifier is required reporting for claims:

PM – Post-mortem visits. Hospices shall report visits and length of visits (rounded to the nearest 15-minute increment), for nurses, aides, social workers, and therapists who are

employed by the hospice, that occur on the date of death, after the patient has passed away. Post mortem visits occurring on a date subsequent to the date of death are not to be reported. The reporting of post-mortem visits, on the date of death, should occur regardless of the patient's level of care or site of service. Date of death is defined as the date of death reported on the death certificate. Hospices shall report hospice visits that occur before death on a separate line from those which occur after death.

For example, assume that a nurse arrives at the home at 9 pm to provide routine home care (RHC) to a dying patient, and that the patient passes away at 11 pm. The nurse stays with the family until 1:30 am. The hospice should report a nursing visit with eight 15-minute time units for the visit from 9 pm to 11 pm. On a separate line, the hospice should report a nursing visit with a PM modifier with four 15-minute time units for the portion of the visit from 11 pm to midnight to account for the 1 hour post mortem visit.

If the patient passes away suddenly, and the hospice nurse does not arrive until after his death at 11:00 pm, and remains with the family until 1:30 am, then the hospice should report a line item nursing visit with a PM modifier and four 15-minute increments of time as the units to account for the 1 hour post mortem visit from 11:00 pm to midnight.

The following modifier may be used to identify requests for an exception to the consequences of not filing the NOE timely:

KX - Even if a hospice believes that exceptional circumstances beyond its control are the cause of its late-filed NOE, the hospice shall file the associated claim with occurrence span code 77 used to identify the non-covered, provider liable days. The hospice shall also report a KX modifier with the Q HCPCS code reported on the earliest dated level of care line on the claim. The KX modifier shall prompt the A/B MAC (HHH) to request the documentation supporting the request for an exception. Based on that documentation, the A/B MAC (HHH) shall determine if a circumstance encountered by a hospice qualifies for an exception.

If the request for an exception is approved by the A/B MAC (HHH), the A/B MAC (HHH) shall process the claim with the CWF override code and remove the submitted provider liable days, which will allow payment for the days associated with the late-filed NOE. If the A/B MAC (HHH) finds that the documentation does not support allowing an exceptional circumstance, the A/B MAC (HHH) shall process the claim as submitted.

The contractor shall use the following remittance advice messages and associated codes under this policy. This CARC/RARC combination is compliant with CAQH CORE Business Scenario Three Group

Code: CO

CARC: 96

RARC: MA54

MSN: N/A

Hospices may appeal the contractor's determination that an exceptional circumstance did not apply.

Modifier GV may be used to identify attending physician services performed by a doctor of medicine, doctor of osteopathy, nurse practitioner or physician assistant.

Service Date

The HIPAA standard 837 Institutional claim format requires line item dates of service for all outpatient claims. Medicare classifies hospice claims as outpatient claims (see Chapter 1, §60.4).

Service date reporting requirements will vary between continuous home care lines (revenue code 652) and other revenue code lines.

Revenue code 652 – report a separately dated line item for each day that continuous home care is provided, reporting the number of hours, or parts of hours rounded to 15-minute increments, of continuous home care that was provided on that date.

Other level of care revenue codes – report a separate line for each level of care provided at each service location type, as described in the instructions for HCPCS coding reported above. Hospices report the earliest date that each level of care was provided at each service location. Attending physician services should be individually dated, reporting the date that each HCPCS code billed was delivered.

Service reporting revenue codes – report dates as described in the table above under Revenue Codes.

For service visits that begin in one calendar day and span into the next calendar day, report one visit using the date the visit ended as the service date.

Service Units

The hospice enters the number of units for each type of service. Units are measured in days for revenue codes 651, 655, and 656. , Units for revenue code 652 are reported in 15-minute increments.

When days are non-covered due to not filing a timely NOE, the hospice reports two lines for the affected level of care. For example, if a billing period contains 31 days of routine home care and the first 5 days are non-covered due to not filing a timely NOE:

- The hospice reports one revenue code 0651 line containing the earliest noncovered date of service, 5 units and all non-covered charges.
- The hospice reports a second revenue code 0651 line containing the first covered date of service, 26 units and all covered charges.
-

Report units for service reporting lines as a multiplier of the visit time defined in the HCPCS description.

When the revenue code or HCPCS code requires 15-minute increment reporting, visits of any length are to be reported, rounding the time to the nearest 15-minute increment.

Units for summary drug charges lines may be reported using '1' to satisfy the required field or using a number of drugs provided during the billing period, at the option of the hospice. Service unit data will not be used by Medicare for payment or data analysis.

Total Charges

The hospice enters the total charge for the service described on each revenue code line. This information is being collected for purposes of research and will not affect the amount of reimbursement.

Non-Covered Charges

The hospice enters a charge amount equal to the Total Charges for any revenue code line with a Service Date within a non-covered period (e.g., an occurrence span code 77 period).

Payer Name

The hospice identifies the appropriate payer(s) for the claim.

National Provider Identifier – Billing Provider

The hospice enters its own National Provider Identifier (NPI).

Principal Diagnosis Code

The hospice enters diagnosis coding as required by ICD-10-CM Coding Guidelines.

CMS accepts only HIPAA approved ICD-10-CM/ICD-10-PCS codes, depending on the date of service.

The official annual updates to ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS codes are posted at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/index.html>.

Use full diagnosis codes including all applicable digits, up to seven digits for ICD-10-CM.

The principal diagnosis listed is the diagnosis most contributory to the terminal prognosis.

Non-reportable Principal Diagnosis Codes to be returned to the provider for correction:

- *Hospices may not report ICD-10-CM codes as the principal diagnosis on hospice claims if the ICD-10-CM code is listed on the unacceptable principal diagnosis list*
- Hospices may not report ICD-10-CM z-codes as the principal diagnosis on hospice claims.
- Hospices may not report ICD-10-CM codes describing debility or failure to thrive as principal hospice diagnoses on the hospice claim.
- Hospices may not report diagnosis codes that cannot be used as the principal diagnosis according to ICD-10-CM Coding Guidelines or require further compliance with various ICD-10-CM coding conventions, such as those that have principal diagnosis code sequencing guidelines.

Other Diagnosis Codes

The hospice enters diagnosis coding as required by ICD-10-CM Coding Guidelines. Hospices will report all diagnoses identified in the initial and comprehensive assessments on hospice claims, whether related or unrelated to the terminal prognosis of the individual. This will also include the reporting of any mental health disorders and conditions that would affect the plan of care.

Attending Provider Name and Identifiers

The hospice enters the name and provider identifier of the attending physician designated by the patient at the time of election as having the most significant role in the determination and delivery of the patient's medical care. The patient's designated attending physician could be an independent physician, hospice physician, a nurse practitioner, or physician assistant. If there is no attending physician listed, then the hospice shall report the hospice certifying/recertifying physician.

Other Provider Name and Identifiers

The hospice enters the name and provider identifier of the hospice physician responsible for certifying/recertifying that the patient is terminally ill, with a life expectancy of 6 months or less if the disease runs its normal course. For electronic claims, this information is reported in Loop ID 2310F – Referring Provider Name.

NOTE: Both the attending physician and other physician fields should be completed unless the patient's designated attending physician is the same as the physician certifying/recertifying the terminal illness. When the attending physician is also the physician certifying/recertifying the terminal illness, only the attending physician field is required to be populated, the other physician field would not need to be populated.

Hospices shall report the NPI of any nursing facility, hospital, or hospice inpatient facility where the patient is receiving hospice services, regardless of the level of care provided when the site of service is not the billing hospice. The billing hospice shall obtain the NPI for the facility where the patient is receiving care and report the facility's name, address and NPI on the 837 Institutional claim format in Loop 2310E- Service Facility Location. When the patient has received care in more than one facility during the billing month, the hospice shall report the NPI of the facility where the patient was last treated. Failure to report this information for claims reporting place of service HCPCS Q5003 (long term care nursing facility), Q5004 (skilled nursing facility), Q5005 (inpatient hospital), Q5007 (long term care hospital) and Q5008 (inpatient psychiatric facility) will result in the claim being returned to the provider.

40.2 - Processing Professional Claims for Hospice Beneficiaries

(Rev. 13074; Issued: 03-13-25; Effective: 04-01-25; Implementation: 04-07-25)

Professional services of attending physicians, who may be nurse practitioners or physician assistants, furnished to hospice beneficiaries are coded with modifier GV: Attending physician not employed or paid under arrangement by the patient's hospice provider. This modifier must be retained and reported to CWF.

A/B MACs (B) processing professional claims shall presume that hospice benefits are not involved unless the biller codes services on the claim to indicate that the patient is a hospice enrollee (e.g. the GV modifier is billed by the attending physician, or the GW modifier is billed for services unrelated to the patient's terminal condition) or the trailer information on the CWF reply shows a hospice election. The A/B MAC (B) shall use the hospice enrollment trailer information on the CWF reply to examine and validate the claim information.

For beneficiaries enrolled in hospice, A/B MACs (B) shall deny any services on professional claim that are submitted without either the GV or GW modifier. A/B MACs (A) and (B) or DME MACs, shall deny claims for all other services related to the patient's terminal condition furnished by individuals or entities other than the designated attending physician. *All claims denied for overlapping hospice election are assigned provider liability.* Such claims include bills for any DME, supplies or independently practicing speech-language pathologists or physical therapists that are related to the terminal condition. These services are included in the hospice rate and paid through the institutional claim.

DME MACs shall make determinations of relatedness in the same way the A/B MACs Part B do today – based entirely on the presence of the GW modifier and not based on diagnosis coding. In the event that the claim exceeds the number of allowable modifiers, the DME MAC shall instruct the supplier to use modifier 99 on the line to indicate additional modifiers are reported in the remarks field. The supplier must include the GW

modifier in the claim remarks. Claims that do not contain the GW modifier shall be denied.

50 - Billing and Payment for Services Unrelated to Terminal Illness *(Rev. 13074; Issued: 03-13-25; Effective: 04-01-25; Implementation: 04-07-25)*

Any covered Medicare services not related to the treatment of the terminal condition *or related conditions* for which hospice care was elected, and which are furnished during a hospice election period, may be billed by the rendering provider using professional or institutional claims for non-hospice Medicare payment. On professional claims, these services are coded with the GW modifier “service not related to the hospice patient’s terminal condition.” On institutional claims, these services are coded with condition code 07 “Treatment of Non-terminal Condition for Hospice.” *Any claims missing the GW modifier or condition code 07 would be denied and all denied claims for overlapping hospice election would be denied as provider liability.* A/B MACs (A) and (B) process services coded with the GW modifier or condition code 07 in the normal manner for coverage and payment determinations. See the related chapter of the Medicare Claims Processing Manual chapter for the type of service involved (i.e., Chapter 12 for physician services) for billing instructions. If warranted, A/B MACs (A) and (B) may conduct pre-payment development or post-payment review to validate that services billed with the GW modifier or condition code 07 are not related to the patient’s terminal condition.