



News Flash – Revised in January 2009 -- The *Outpatient Code Editor (OCE) Web-Based Training (WBT)*, which is made available by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Medicare Learning Network (MLN), can help healthcare professionals, and medical administrative staff, to understand the OCE utilized under the Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS), as well as other payment systems. This WBT addresses the OCE in the Fiscal Intermediary Standard System (FISS). It can be accessed by going to <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNGenInfo/index.html> on the CMS website. Then, scroll to the “Related Links Inside CMS” section and select [Web Based Training \(WBT\) Modules](#). You will find the “Outpatient Code Editor WBT” from the list provided.

MLN Matters® Number: MM6385

Related Change Request (CR) #: 6385

Related CR Release Date: April 24, 2009

Effective Date: October 1, 2009

Related CR Transmittal #: R1718CP

Implementation Date: October 5, 2009

Note: This article was updated on December 17, 2012, to reflect current Web addresses. All other information remains unchanged.

New Patient Discharge Status Code 21 to Define Discharges or Transfers to Court/Law Enforcement

Provider Types Affected

Hospitals submitting claims to Medicare contractors (Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs) and/or A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs)) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

Provider Action Needed

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 6385 which provides implementing instructions for a new patient discharge status code 21, which defines discharges or transfers to court/law enforcement. This includes transfers to incarceration facilities such as jail, prison, or other detention facility.

Disclaimer

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

Background

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has required Field Locator 17 (Patient Discharge Status Code) on the Uniform Billing Claims Form (UB-04) and its electronic equivalence. The Patient Discharge Status Code indicates the disposition or discharge status of the beneficiary on the submitted claims.

The National Uniform Billing Committee (NUBC) created a new Patient Discharge Status Code 21 to define discharges or transfers to court/law enforcement. Patient Discharge Status Code 21 usage includes transfers to incarceration facilities such as jail, prison or other detention facilities. Medicare systems will accept this code for claims with discharge dates on or after October 1, 2009.

Note that for Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) hospitals, the post-acute transfer payment policy will not apply to claims that contain Patient Discharge Status Code 21.

Additional Information

The official instruction, CR 6385, issued to your FI and A/B MAC regarding this change may be viewed at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R1718CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your FI or A/B MAC at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/provider-compliance-interactive-map/index.html> on the CMS website.

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