

The National Correct Coding Initiative and Medically Unlikely Edits

11/18/2021



Today's Presenters

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Objectives

- To gain an understanding of NCCI edits and proper modifier use
- Understand the MUE adjudication indicators and how the claims are processed
- Understand the different level of appeals for NCCI and MUE denials

Agenda

- National Correct Coding Initiative
- Modifiers
- Medically Unlikely Edits
- Redetermination/Reopening
- Resources

National Correct Coding Initiative

What Is the NCCI?

- PTP code pair edits
- Developed to promote national correct coding methods
- To control improper coding leading to inappropriate payment for Medicare Part B claims
- Edits to prevent unbundling of services
- Edits are updated quarterly

Coding Conventions Defined

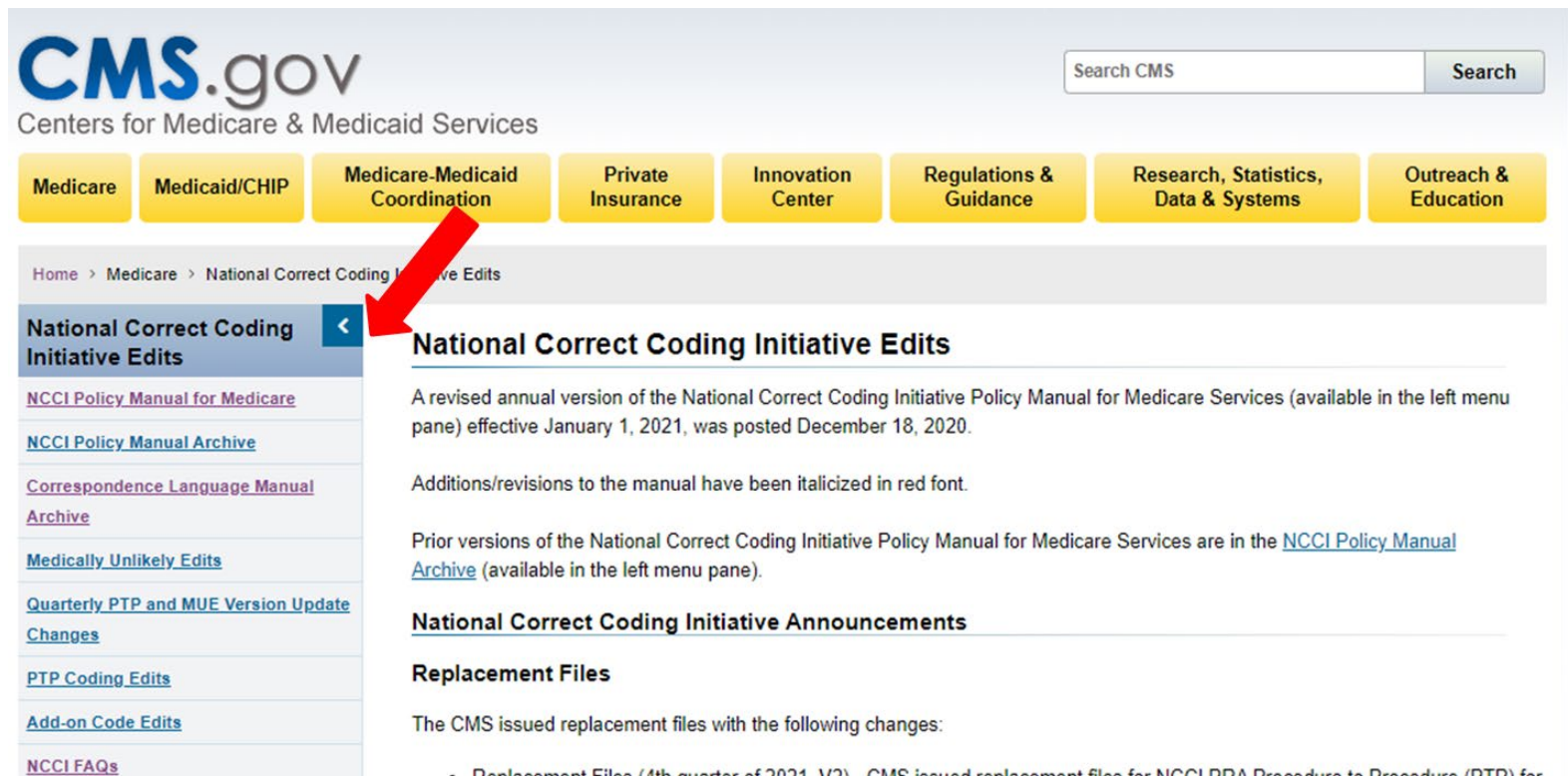
- Coding policies are based on the
 - AMA CPT Manual
 - HCPCS Manual
 - National and local Medicare policies
 - Coding guidelines developed by national societies

NCCI Edits

- Two types
 - PTP coding edits
 - PTP Edits – physicians
 - PTP Edits – hospitals

Where to Find NCCI Edits

■ National Correct Coding Initiative



The screenshot shows the CMS.gov homepage with the 'Medicare-Medicaid Coordination' button highlighted. The left sidebar contains a list of links, with 'National Correct Coding Initiative Edits' selected. The main content area displays the 'National Correct Coding Initiative Edits' page, which includes a revised annual version of the NCCI Policy Manual for Medicare Services, effective January 1, 2021, and a list of replacement files.

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Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Search CMS Search

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Home > Medicare > National Correct Coding Initiative Edits

National Correct Coding Initiative Edits

- [NCCI Policy Manual for Medicare](#)
- [NCCI Policy Manual Archive](#)
- [Correspondence Language Manual Archive](#)
- [Medically Unlikely Edits](#)
- [Quarterly PTP and MUE Version Update Changes](#)
- [PTP Coding Edits](#)
- [Add-on Code Edits](#)
- [NCCI FAQs](#)

National Correct Coding Initiative Edits

A revised annual version of the National Correct Coding Initiative Policy Manual for Medicare Services (available in the left menu pane) effective January 1, 2021, was posted December 18, 2020.

Additions/revisions to the manual have been italicized in red font.

Prior versions of the National Correct Coding Initiative Policy Manual for Medicare Services are in the [NCCI Policy Manual Archive](#) (available in the left menu pane).

National Correct Coding Initiative Announcements

Replacement Files

The CMS issued replacement files with the following changes:

- Replacement Files (4th quarter of 2021 - V2): CMS issued replacement files for NCCI PPA Procedure to Procedure (PTP) for

National Correct Coding Initiative Edits

NCCI Policy Manual for Medicare

[NCCI Policy Manual Archive](#)

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[Medically Unlikely Edits](#)

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[PTP Coding Edits](#)

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[NCCI FAQs](#)

NCCI Policy Manual for Medicare

[Introduction \(PDF\)](#)

[Chapter 1 \(PDF\)](#)

[Chapter 2 \(PDF\)](#)

[Chapter 3 \(PDF\)](#)

[Chapter 4 \(PDF\)](#)

[Chapter 5 \(PDF\)](#)

[Chapter 6 \(PDF\)](#)

[Chapter 7 \(PDF\)](#)

[Chapter 8 \(PDF\)](#)

[Chapter 9 \(PDF\)](#)

[Chapter 10 \(PDF\)](#)

[Chapter 11 \(PDF\)](#)

[Chapter 12 \(PDF\)](#)

[Chapter 13 \(PDF\)](#)

Where to Find NCCI Edits

Related Links

[Hospital PTP Edits v272r0 effective July 1, 2021 \(579,423 records\) 0001M/80050 – 27894/G0471 \(posted 06/01/2021\)](#)

[Hospital PTP Edits v272r0 effective July 1, 2021 \(521,537 records\) 28001/0213T - 49999/49570 \(posted 06/01/2021\)](#)

[Hospital PTP Edits v272r0 effective July 1, 2021 \(385,708 records\) 50010/0213T - 79999/36000 \(posted 06/01/2021\)](#)

[Hospital PTP Edits v272r0 effective July 1, 2021 \(203,425 records\) 80003/80002 – U0003/U0004 \(posted 06/01/2021\)](#)

[Practitioner PTP Edits v272r0 effective July 1, 2021 \(620,389 records\) 0001M/36591 – 25999/96523 \(posted 06/01/2021\)](#)

[Practitioner PTP Edits v272r0 effective July 1, 2021 \(605,582 records\) 26010/01810 – 36909/J2001 \(posted 06/01/2021\)](#)

[Practitioner PTP Edits v272r0 effective July 1, 2021 \(584,943 records\) 37140/0213T – 60699/96523 \(posted 06/01/2021\)](#)

[Practitioner PTP Edits v272r0 effective July 1, 2021 \(644,928 records\) : 61000/0213T – U0003/U0004 \(posted 06/01/2021\)](#)

[Hospital PTP Edits v273r1 effective October 1, 2021 \(579,454 records\) 0001M/80050 – 27894/G0471 \(posted 09/08/2021\)](#)

[Hospital PTP Edits v273r1 effective October 1, 2021 \(521,541 records\) 28001/0213T - 49999/49570 \(posted 09/08/2021\)](#)

[Hospital PTP Edits v273r1 effective October 1, 2021 \(385,742 records\) 50010/0213T - 79999/36000 \(posted 09/08/2021\)](#)

[Hospital PTP Edits v273r1 effective October 1, 2021 \(203,796 records\) 80003/80002 – U0003/U0004 \(posted 09/08/2021\)](#)

[Practitioner PTP Edits v273r2 effective October 1, 2021 \(620,422 records\) 0001M/36591 – 25999/96523 \(posted 10/05/2021\)](#)

[Practitioner PTP Edits v273r2 effective October 1, 2021 \(605,586 records\) 26010/01810 – 36909/J2001 \(posted 10/05/2021\)](#)

[Practitioner PTP Edits v273r2 effective October 1, 2021 \(584,947 records\) 37140/0213T – 60699/96523 \(posted 10/05/2021\)](#)

[Practitioner PTP Edits v273r2 effective October 1, 2021 \(645,310 records\) : 61000/0213T – U0003/U0004 \(posted 10/05/2021\)](#)

NCCI Coding

- Column one code is eligible for payment
- Column two code will be denied unless both codes are clinically appropriate
- Indicate the supporting documentation in the medical record

NCCI

- Does not include all possible combinations
 - Providers are obligated to code correctly
- Services that are denied based on PTP code pair edits
 - May not be billed to Medicare beneficiaries
 - Cannot utilize an ABN to seek payment

NCCI Indicators

| Modifier Indicator | Descriptor |
|--------------------|--|
| Indicator 0 | Codes should never be reported together by the same provider/same beneficiary/same DOS |
| Indicator 1 | Codes may be reported together only in defined circumstances (identified on claims by specific NCCI-associated modifier) |
| Indicator 9 | Not relevant (edit was deleted) |

NCCI Example

| Column 1 | Column 2 | * = In existence prior to 1996 | Effective Date | Deletion Date *=no data | Modifier 0=not allowed 1=allowed 9=not applicable | PTP Edit Rationale |
|----------|----------|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|--|--|
| 26010 | 99211 | | 20130701 | * | 1 | CPT Manual or CMS manual coding instructions |
| 26010 | 99212 | | 20130701 | * | 1 | CPT Manual or CMS manual coding instructions |
| 26010 | 99213 | | 20130701 | * | 1 | CPT Manual or CMS manual coding instructions |
| 26010 | 99214 | | 20130701 | * | 1 | CPT Manual or CMS manual coding instructions |
| 26010 | 99215 | | 20130701 | * | 1 | CPT Manual or CMS manual coding instructions |
| 26010 | 99217 | | 20130701 | * | 1 | CPT Manual or CMS manual coding instructions |
| 26010 | 99218 | | 20130701 | * | 1 | CPT Manual or CMS manual coding instructions |
| 26010 | 99219 | | 20130701 | * | 1 | CPT Manual or CMS manual coding instructions |
| 26010 | 99220 | | 20130701 | * | 1 | CPT Manual or CMS manual coding instructions |
| 26010 | 99221 | | 20130701 | * | 1 | CPT Manual or CMS manual coding instructions |
| 26010 | 99222 | | 20130701 | * | 1 | CPT Manual or CMS manual coding instructions |
| 26010 | 99223 | | 20130701 | * | 1 | CPT Manual or CMS manual coding instructions |

NCCI Example

| Column 1 | Column 2 | * = In existence prior to 1996 | Effective Date | Deletion Date | Modifier 0=not allowed 1=allowed 9=not applicable | PTP Edit Rationale |
|----------|----------|--------------------------------|----------------|---------------|--|--|
| 93015 | 90783 | | 19960101 | 20041231 | 0 | Standards of medical / surgical practice |
| 93015 | 90784 | | 19960101 | 20041231 | 0 | Standards of medical / surgical practice |
| 93015 | 93000 | | 19960101 | * | 1 | Standards of medical / surgical practice |
| 93015 | 93005 | | 19960101 | * | 1 | Standards of medical / surgical practice |
| 93015 | 93010 | | 19960101 | * | 1 | Standards of medical / surgical practice |
| 93015 | 93016 | | 19960101 | * | 0 | HCPCS/CPT procedure code definition |
| 93015 | 93017 | * | 19960101 | * | 0 | HCPCS/CPT procedure code definition |
| 93015 | 93018 | * | 19960101 | * | 0 | HCPCS/CPT procedure code definition |
| 93015 | 93040 | | 19960101 | * | 1 | More extensive procedure |
| 93015 | 93041 | | 19960101 | * | 1 | More extensive procedure |
| 93015 | 93042 | | 19960101 | * | 1 | More extensive procedure |

Remittance Example and References

| Code | Description |
|-----------------|---|
| CO-16 | Claim/service lacks information or has submission/billing error(s) which is needed for adjudication. Additional information is supplied using remittance advice remarks codes. |
| Reason Code 236 | This procedure or procedure/modifier combination is not compatible with another procedure/modifier combination provided on the same day according to the National Correct Coding Initiative or workers' compensation state regulations/fee schedule requirements. |

- WPC references
- [X12 External Code Lists](#)
 - Remittance Advice Remarks Code reference
 - Claim Adjustment Reason Code reference

Appropriate Modifiers

- Modifiers that may be used under **appropriate clinical circumstances**
 - Anatomic modifiers: E1—E4, FA, F1—F9, TA, T1—T9, LT, RT, LC, LD, RC, LM, RI
 - E/M modifiers: 24, 25, 57
 - Global surgery modifiers: 58, 78, 79
 - Other modifiers: 59, XE, XS, XP, XU, 76, 77, 91, KX
- Documentation must satisfy the criteria required

Repeat Service Modifiers

- Modifier 76 – Repeat procedure by the same physician
- Modifier 77 – Repeat procedure by a different physician
- Modifier 91 – Repeat clinical diagnostic laboratory test to obtain multiple results
- [Repeat Procedures - Modifiers 76 and 77](#)
- [Proper Use of Modifiers 59 and 91](#)

Modifier 59/XE/XS/XP/XU

Distinct Procedural Service

- Used when performed procedure or service distinct or separate from other services performed on same day, such as
 - Different session or patient encounter
 - Different procedure or surgery
 - Different anatomic site
 - Separate lesion
 - Separate injury

Modifiers 59/XE/XS/XP/XU

- Appropriate usage
 - Different session or patient encounter, different procedure or surgery, different anatomical site, or separate injury or area of injury
 - Medical record documentation indicates two separate distinct procedures performed on the same day by the same physician
 - Listed on the column one or column two code (MM11168)
 - Only when there is no other appropriate modifier to use
- Inappropriate usage
 - Code combination does not appear in the NCCI edits
 - Not be appended to an E/M service performed on the same date, see modifier 25
 - NCCI modifier table with a modifier indicator of “0”
 - Medical record documentation does not support the separate and distinct status
 - Exact same procedure code was performed twice on the same day, see modifier 76 or 77
 - A more appropriate modifier exists to identify the services

Add-on Codes

National Correct Coding Initiative Edits

[NCCI Policy Manual for Medicare](#)

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[Correspondence Language Manual Archive](#)

[Medically Unlikely Edits](#)

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National Correct Coding Initiative Announcements

Replacement Files

The CMS issued replacement files with the following changes:

- Replacement Files (4th quarter of 2021, V2) - CMS issued replacement files for NCCI PRA Procedure to Procedure (PTP) for the October 1, 2021 files. Updated public replacement files for Medicare are available using the links in the left navigation pane. (Announcement posted October 1, 2021)
- Replacement Files (1st quarter of 2021) - CMS issued replacement files for NCCI Medically Unlikely Edits (MUEs) for the January 1, 2021 files. Updated public replacement files for Medicare are available using the links in the left navigation pane. (Announcement posted December 14, 2020)
- Replacement MUE Files (3rd quarter of 2020) - CMS issued replacement files for NCCI MUE PRA and NCCI MUE OPH to

Add-on Codes

- Describes a service always performed in conjunction with another primary service
- Is eligible for payment only if it is reported with an appropriate primary procedure performed by the same practitioner
- Is never eligible for payment if it is the only procedure reported by a practitioner

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Downloads

[How to Use The National Correct Coding Initiative \(NCCI\) Tools \(PDF\)](#)[R1421OTN \(PDF\)](#)[Proper Use of Modifiers 59 & -X{EPSU} \(PDF\)](#)[Correspondence Language Manual for Medicare Services - Effective date February 28, 2021 \(PDF\)](#)

Related Links

[The National Correct Coding Initiative in Medicaid](#)[HCPCS - General Information](#)[Transmittals](#)[MM8853](#)[SE1422 - Medically Unlikely Edits \(MUE\) and Bilateral Surgical Procedures](#)

Medically Unlikely Edits

Medically Unlikely Edits

- Developed to reduce the paid claims error rate
- Automated prepayment edits
- Do not exist for all HCPCS/CPT codes
- Majority of the edits are publicly available
- Edits are updated quarterly

MUE Edits

- Three provider-type choices
 - MUEs
 - Practitioner MUEs
 - DME supplier MUEs
 - Facility outpatient MUEs

MUEs

- MACs may have a unit of service edit that could be more restrictive
 - If so, that edit would be applied to the claim
- If a MUE is more restrictive than a MACs, the more restrictive edit would apply
- MUE values are not utilization guidelines
- MUEs reported less than or equal to a value for a code may still be subjected to medical review

Remittance Example and References

| Code | Description |
|------------------|--|
| CO-16 | Claim/service lacks information or has submission/billing error(s) which is needed for adjudication. Additional information is supplied using remittance advice remarks codes. |
| Reason Code 151 | Payment adjusted because the payer deems the information submitted does not support this many/frequency of services. |
| Remark Code N362 | Number of days/units exceed maximum. |

**National Correct Coding
Initiative Edits**[NCCI Policy Manual for Medicare](#)[NCCI Policy Manual Archive](#)[Correspondence Language Manual
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Medically Unlikely Edits

CMS National Correct Coding Initiative Program (NCCI) Medicare and Medicaid Program

Medically Unlikely Edits (MUEs) are used by the Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs), including Durable Medical Equipment (DME) MACs, to reduce the improper payment rate for Part B claims. An MUE for a HCPCS/CPT code is the maximum units of service that a provider would report under most circumstances for a single beneficiary on a single date of service. Not all HCPCS/CPT codes have an MUE.

This webpage has links to Frequently Asked Questions and Answers (FAQs), public Medicare MUE files, and the Publication Announcement Letter, which explain most aspects of the MUE program.

Although CMS publishes most MUE values on its website, other MUE values are confidential and are for CMS and CMS contractors use only. Confidential MUE values are not releasable. The public/confidential status of MUEs may change over time.

Inquiries about the MUE program, including those related to NCCI (PTP, MUE and Add-On) edits, should be sent to NCCIPTMUE@cms.hhs.gov. Inquiries about a specific claim should be addressed to the appropriate MAC.

Downloads

[DME Supplier Services MUE Table - Effective-10-01-2021 Posted September 3, 2021 \(ZIP\)](#)[Facility Outpatient Hospital Services MUE Table - Effective-10-01-2021 Posted September 3, 2021 \(ZIP\)](#)[Practitioner Services MUE Table - Effective-10-01-2021 Posted September 3, 2021 \(ZIP\)](#)[DME Supplier Services MUE Table - Effective-07-01-2021- Posted June 1, 2021 \(ZIP\)](#)[Facility Outpatient Hospital Services MUE Table - Effective-07-01-2021- Posted June 1, 2021 \(ZIP\)](#)[Practitioner Services MUE Table - Effective-07-01-2021- Posted June 1, 2021 \(ZIP\)](#)

MUE Table

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| HCPCS/ CPT Code | Practitioner Services MUE Values | | MUE Rationale |
|-----------------------|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 92700 | 1 | 3 Date of Service Edit: Clinical | Clinical: CMS Workgroup |
| 92920 | 3 | 3 Date of Service Edit: Clinical | Code Descriptor / CPT Instruction |
| 92921 | 6 | 2 Date of Service Edit: Policy | Code Descriptor / CPT Instruction |
| 92924 | 2 | 3 Date of Service Edit: Clinical | Code Descriptor / CPT Instruction |
| 92925 | 6 | 2 Date of Service Edit: Policy | Code Descriptor / CPT Instruction |
| 92928 | 3 | 3 Date of Service Edit: Clinical | Clinical: Data |
| 92929 | 6 | 2 Date of Service Edit: Policy | Code Descriptor / CPT Instruction |

MUE Adjudication Indicator “1”

- This is a **claim line** edit which will deny when units of service are in excess of the MUE, although this may be impacted by the presence of a modifier on the claim line

| HCPCS/ CPT Code | Practitioner Services MUE Values | MUE Adjudication Indicator | MUE Rationale |
|-----------------------|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| J7190 | 22000 | 1 Line Edit | Clinical: Data |
| J7191 | 0 | 3 Date of Service Edit: Clinical | Drug discontinued |
| J7192 | 22000 | 1 Line Edit | Clinical: Data |
| J7193 | 4000 | 1 Line Edit | Clinical: Data |
| J7194 | 9000 | 1 Line Edit | Clinical: CMS Workgroup |
| J7195 | 6000 | 1 Line Edit | Clinical: CMS Workgroup |

MUE Adjudication Indicator “1” Example

- J7193 Example Total of 4100 units
 - Line 1 = J7193 (MAI 1) – 4000 (MUE is 4000)
 - Line 2 = J7193 76 modifier (MAI 1) – 100 units

| HCPCS/ CPT Code | Practitioner Services MUE Values | MUE Adjudication Indicator | MUE Rationale |
|-----------------------|--|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| J7190 | 22000 | 1 Line Edit | Clinical: Data |
| J7191 | 0 | 3 Date of Service Edit: Clinical | Drug discontinued |
| J7192 | 22000 | 1 Line Edit | Clinical: Data |
| J7193 | 4000 | 1 Line Edit | Clinical: Data |

MUE Adjudication Indicator “2”

- This is an absolute date of service edit. UOS in excess of the MUE value would be considered impossible because of a statute, regulation or sub regulatory guidance. This includes correct coding policy that is binding for both providers and MACs.
- **Note:** When billing for bilateral services and the MAI value is 2, you must bill as a single line item with the 50 modifier

MUE Adjudication Indicator “2” Example

| HCPCS/ CPT Code | Practitioner Services MUE Values | MUE Adjudication Indicator | MUE Rationale |
|--------------------|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| G0435 | 1 | 2 Date of Service Edit: Policy | Code Descriptor / CPT Instruction |
| G0438 | 1 | 2 Date of Service Edit: Policy | Code Descriptor / CPT Instruction |
| G0439 | 1 | 2 Date of Service Edit: Policy | Code Descriptor / CPT Instruction |
| G0442 | 1 | 2 Date of Service Edit: Policy | CMS Policy |
| G0443 | 1 | 2 Date of Service Edit: Policy | CMS Policy |
| G0444 | 1 | 2 Date of Service Edit: Policy | CMS Policy |
| G0445 | 1 | 2 Date of Service Edit: Policy | CMS Policy |

MUE Adjudication Indicator “3”

- This is a date of service edit based on clinical benchmarks. If medical necessity for the excess UOS is established through prepayment review of the claim, reopening or redetermination process or through instructions from a higher level of appeal, MACs may bypass these edits and allow the excess UOS.
- **Note:** UOS are counted for all lines of service on the current claim and any prior finalized claim for the same DOS. When that count exceeds the MUE UOS, all claim lines for the code on the current claim are denied, although prior paid and finalized claims are not adjusted. The claim will have to be submitted through a redetermination with medical documentation to support the units of service.

MUE Adjudication Indicator “3” Example

| HCPCS/ CPT Code | Practitioner Services MUE Values | MUE Adjudication Indicator | MUE Rationale |
|-----------------------|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 82943 | 1 | 3 Date of Service Edit: Clinical | Nature of Analyte |
| 82945 | 4 | 3 Date of Service Edit: Clinical | Clinical: Data |
| 82946 | 1 | 2 Date of Service Edit: Policy | Nature of Service/Procedure |
| 82947 | 5 | 3 Date of Service Edit: Clinical | Clinical: Data |

MUE Adjudication Indicator “3” Example

- 82947 example of seven units (MUE 5)
- Line One – 82947 seven units (Must appeal all units)
- Claim must be appealed with documentation to support additional units in excess of five because it is a DOS edit, which means the system will add up all units for that date regardless of how many claims were submitted

MUE Notes

- MUE denials may be appealed
 - Denials based on coding/billing errors can be addressed via the redetermination process
- MUEs are applicable to the time period in table
- Liability cannot be shifted to the beneficiary
 - ABN issuance in anticipation of a MUE denial is not appropriate

MUE Notes

- ASCs
 - Cannot use modifier 50
 - Bill two UOS on one detail line or
 - Bill separate details using RT/LT modifiers
 - Report procedures with differing modifiers on individual claim lines when appropriate
 - Many MUEs are based on the assumption that correct modifiers are used

Modifier 50

- Used to report bilateral procedures performed at the same operative sessions as a single line item
 - Do not use modifiers RT/LT when modifier 50 is used
- Applies to any bilateral procedures performed on both sides at the same operative session
- Do not use to report on surgical procedures identified by their terminology as “unilateral or bilateral”
- Report one unit when modifier 50 is reported
- Report anatomic modifiers on individual claim lines



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Result Type: *

☐ Full Fee Schedule

☒ Specific To Fee Code

Date of Service: *

11/15/2021

Procedure Code: *

G2212

Region: *

New York (area 02)

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Non-OPPS Capped Payment Rates (NON-OPPS)

| Modifier | NON FAC PAR | NON FAC NON PAR | NON FAC LC | FAC PAR | FAC NON PAR | FAC LC |
|-----------|-------------|-----------------|------------|---------|-------------|--------|
| (Details) | 39.78 | 37.79 | 43.46 | 38.50 | 36.58 | 42.07 |

Non-OPPS Capped Payment Rates (NON-OPPS)

| Modifier | NON FAC PAR | NON FAC NON PAR | NON FAC LC | FAC PAR | FAC NON PAR | FAC LC |
|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------|
| (Details) | 39.78 | 37.79 | 43.46 | 38.50 | 36.58 | 42.07 |
| Modifier Selected: (blank) | | | | | | |
| Status | Conversion Factor | Update Factor | Work RVU | FAC PE RVU | NON FAC PE RVU | |
| A | 34.8931 | 1.0375 | 0.61 | 0.27 | 0.30 | |
| Malpractice RVU | Work GPCI | Practice GPCI | Malpractice GPCI | Reduced Therapy Amt | Endoscopic Base | |
| 0.05 | 1.046 | 1.223 | 2.702 | 0.00 | | |
| Global Surgery | Facility Pricing | PC/TC | Preoperative Percentage | Interoperative Percentage | Postoperative Percentage | |
| XXX | 1 | 0 | 00.00% | 00.00% | 00.00% | |
| Multiple Surgery | Bilateral Surgery | Assistant At Surgery | Two Surgeons | Team Surgery | | |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |

Bilateral Surgery Indicators

- **Bilateral Surgery Indicators**
- “0” indicates a unilateral code
 - Modifier 50 is not billable
- “1” indicates modifier 50 can be appropriate
- “2” indicates a bilateral code
 - Modifier 50 is not billable

Bilateral Surgery Indicators

- “3” indicates primary radiology codes
 - Modifier 50 is billable
- “9” indicates that the concept does not apply
- Modifier 50 cannot be appended when bilateral indicators are 0, 2 or 9

Bilateral Indicators

- Column 8: Bilateral Surgery (Modifier 50)
 - Indicates services subject to a payment adjustment

| Indicator | Description |
|-----------|---|
| 0 | <p>150 percent payment adjustment for bilateral procedures does not apply. If procedure is reported with modifier 50 or with modifiers RT and LT, base the payment for the two sides on the lower of: (a) the total actual charge for both sides or (b) 100 percent of the fee schedule amount for single code. Example: The fee schedule amount for code XXXXX is \$125. The physician reports code XXXXX-LT with an actual charge of \$100. Payment should be based on the fee schedule amount of \$125 since its lower than the total actual charges for the left and right sides (\$200).</p> <p>The bilateral adjustment is inappropriate for codes in this category (a) because of physiology or anatomy, or (b) because the code description specifically states that it is a unilateral procedure and there is an existing code for the bilateral procedure.</p> |
| 1 | <p>150 percent payment adjustment for bilateral procedure applies. If the code is billed with the bilateral modifier or is reported twice on the same day by any other means (e.g., with RT and LT modifiers, or with a 2 in the units field), base the payment for these codes when reported as bilateral procedures on the lower of (a) the total actual charge for both sides, or (b), 150 percent of the fee schedule amount for a single code. If the code is reported as a bilateral procedure and is reported with other procedure codes on the same day, apply the bilateral adjustment before applying any applicable multiple procedure rules.</p> |

Bilateral Indicators

| Indicator | Description |
|-----------|---|
| 2 | <p>150 percent payment adjustment for bilateral does not apply. RVUs are already based on the procedure being performed as a bilateral procedure. If the procedure is reported with modifier 50 or is reported twice on the same day by any other means (e.g., with RT and LT modifiers or with a 2 in the units field), base payment for both sides on the lower of (a) the total actual charges by the physician for both sides, or (b) 100 percent of the fee schedule for a single code. Example: The fee schedule amount for code YYYYYY is \$125. The physician reports code YYYYYY-LT with an actual charge of \$100 and YYYYYY-RT with an actual charge of \$100. Payment should be based on the fee schedule amount (\$125) since it's lower than the total actual charges for the left and right sides (\$200). The RVUs are based on the bilateral procedure because (a) the code descriptor specifically states the procedure is bilateral, (b) the code descriptor states that the procedure may be performed either unilaterally or bilaterally, or © the procedure is usually performed as a bilateral procedure.</p> |
| 3 | <p>The usual payment adjustment for bilateral procedures does not apply. If the procedure is reported with modifier 50 or is reported for both sides on the same day by any other means (e.g., with RT and LT modifiers or with a 2 in the units field), base the payment for each side or organ or site of a paired organ on the lower of (a) the actual charge for each side or (b) 100 percent of the fee schedule amount for each side. If the procedure is reported as a bilateral procedure and with other procedure codes on the same day, determine the fee schedule amount for a bilateral procedure before applying any multiple procedure rules. Services in this category are generally radiology procedures or other diagnostic tests which are not subject to the special payment rules for other bilateral surgeries.</p> |
| 9 | Concept does not apply. |

NCCI Contractor

- National Correct Coding Initiative Contractor
P.O. Box 368
Pittsboro, IN 46167
- Fax #: 317-571-1745
 - Inquiries about the NCCI program, including those related to NCCI (PTP, MUE and Add-On) edits, should be sent to the following email address: NCCIPTPMUE@cms.hhs.gov
- National Correct Coding Initiative Edits

Redetermination/Reopening

Redetermination

- Redetermination – First level of an appeal
 - Written
 - NGSConnex
- No minimum amount in controversy
- Remittance advice code
 - MA01 – Claim has appeal rights
- Attach supportive medical documentation

Reopening

- Correction to minor, uncomplicated, provider or contractor clerical errors or omissions
 - Telephone
 - TRU line will not process MUE denials
 - Written
 - NGSConnex

| Reopening To correct a claim(s) determination resulting from minor errors | Redetermination (Appeal – First level) For partially paid or denied claim(s) resulting from more complex issues that require analysis of documentation |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathematical or computational mistake • Inaccurate data entry • Computer errors • Incorrect data items • Transposed procedure or diagnostic codes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coverage of furnished items and service • Overpayment determinations • Medical necessity claim denials • Determination on limitation of liability provision |

***Reminder:** TRU line does not accept MUE denials, they must be submitted via NGSConnex portal

Reopening

- Assignment of claims (MAC errors only)
- CLIA certification denials
- Adding or changing order/referring/supervising physician
- Add/change rendering provider
- POS changes
- Duplicate denials

Reopening

- MA plan denials (clinical trial or hospice related only)
- Modifier GV and GW
- Fee schedule incorrect
- HIC/MBI corrections (MAC error only)
- MSP – Medicare now primary
 - **Note:** MSP claims can only be processed within one year from the date of denial or payment.

Reopening

- Patient paid amount (MAC error only)

Exception: If Medicaid or another government entity paid in error, please submit a written request.

Modifier Appeals

- Adding/changing a modifier
 - Excluding modifiers AQ, AR, QU, QB, 22, 23, 52, 53, 62, 66, GA, GY and GZ
- Reopenings for Minor Errors and Omissions

Contacting Telephone Reopening Unit

- Please provide
 - Beneficiary's name
 - Medicare number
 - Your name and phone number
 - Provider's full name/PTAN
 - Item or service in question
 - Date(s) of service in question
 - Reason for request

NGSConnex

- Free, secure, web-based application
 - Submit claims
 - Obtain beneficiary eligibility information
 - Submit documents for ADR requests (including Medical Review)
 - Initiate and check status of redetermination and reopening requests
 - View duplicate/claim overlaps

NGSConnex Resources

- [NGS Medicare YouTube](#)
 - NGSConnex Account Setup
 - How to Check Beneficiary Eligibility in NGSConnex
 - How to Submit Part B Claims
 - And much more
- NGSConnex web page
 - Central location for all resources, located under the Resources tab, offers information from registration to navigation
- [NGSConnex](#)

Resources

- MLN® Booklet: [How to Use the Medicare National Correct Coding Initiative \(NCCI\) Tools](#)
- Medicare Topics
 - [Repeat Procedures - Modifiers 76 and 77](#)
- MLN Matters® Fact Sheet
 - [Proper Use of Modifiers 59 & –X{EPSU}](#)
- MLN Matters®: [MM11168 Revised: Modification of the MCS Claims Processing System Logic for Modifier 59, XE, XS, XP, and XU Involving the National Correct Coding Initiative \(NCCI\) Procedure to Procedure \(PTP\) Column One and Column Two Codes](#)
- [CMS Medically Unlikely Edits](#)
- [NGS Medically Unlikely Edits](#)

Thank You!

- Follow-up email
 - Attendees will be provided a Medicare University Course Code
- Questions?

We're on Twitter!



@NGSMedicare

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