

Virtual Conference – Medicare Essentials: Appeals, Overpayments and Cost Reports

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Today's Presenters

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Objectives

- After this session, attendees will be able to
 - Understand and utilize the Medicare appeals process
 - Properly submit claim adjustments and cancel claims
 - Identify Medicare overpayments and respond appropriately
 - Correctly submit credit balance and cost reports
- Acronyms used in this PPT are defined on the [NGS Acronym Search Tool](#)

Agenda

- Appeals
- Adjustments and Cancel Claims
- Overpayments
- Credit Balance Reporting
- Cost Reports
- Questions and Answers

Reopenings and Appeals

Claim Appeals

- Processed claim considered initial determination by Medicare
 - Full or partial denial may occur on claim
- When provider disputes initial determination resulting in denial by Medicare, may submit appeal for redetermination
- Visit our [website](#) for appeals information

Reopenings for Minor Errors and Omissions

- Action taken to change initial determination to correct minor errors or omissions outside of appeal process
 - Mathematical or computational mistake
 - Transposed procedure or diagnostic codes
 - Inaccurate data entry
 - Computer errors
 - Incorrect data items

How to Submit a Request for Reopening

- Complete and submit [Clerical Error/Omission Reopening Request Form](#)
 - National Government Services, Inc.
Attn: Appeals
P.O. Box 6474
Indianapolis, IN 46206-6474
- Or submit request via NGSConnex
- Reopenings granted at MAC discretion
 - If denied, appeal rights apply after claim denial

Reopening Request Change

- Bill type frequency code "Q" to be used by providers indicating a request for reopening
 - Reopening request (TOB XXQ) should only be utilized when submission falls outside of period to submit adjustment bill

Appeals Overview Chart

Appeal Level	Time Limit For Filing	2019 Monetary Threshold
Redetermination	120 days from date of receipt of RA	None
QIC Reconsideration	180 days from redetermination notice	None
ALJ Hearing	60 days from reconsideration notice	\$160
DAB Review	60 days from the ALJ decision	None
Federal District Court Review (Judicial)	60 days from DAB decision	\$1,630

How to Submit Redetermination Requests

- Within 180 days from date of receipt of denial, submit redetermination request to MAC
 - [Submit an Appeal Electronically with NGSConnex](#)
 - [Submit an Appeal Electronically via esMD](#)

Redeterminations

- Submit all necessary medical documentation to support services billed on claim
 - Complete medical record
 - [CMS IOM Publication, *Medicare Claims Processing Manual*, Chapter 29 – Appeals of Claims Decisions, Section 310.5](#)
- Redetermination decision letter provided within 60 days of receipt of appeal request

How to Submit QIC Reconsideration Requests

- Complete and mail
 - CMS-20033 Medicare Reconsideration Request Form, or
 - Reconsideration request form included with the redetermination decision
- Mailing address for reconsideration request
 - [Submit a Reconsideration](#)

QIC Reconsideration

- Within 180 days of receipt of redetermination decision letter
- QIC reviews medical documentation
- QIC decision provided within 60 days of receipt of reconsideration request

How to Submit ALJ Hearing Requests

- Submit written request to Division of Centralized Docketing (most cases)
 - OMHA Central Operations
1001 Lakeside Avenue, Suite 930
Cleveland, OH 44114-1158
- Always defer to address specified in reconsideration determination

ALJ Hearing

- Within 60 days of receipt of reconsideration decision letter
 - Amount in controversy = minimum \$180
- ALJ reviews medical documentation
- ALJ decision provided within 90 days of receipt of hearing request

How to Submit DAB Review Requests

- Submit written Request for Review of Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Medicare Decision/Dismissal form
 - Department of Health and Human Services
Departmental Appeals Board
Medicare Appeals Council, MS 6127
Cohen Building Room G-644
330 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

DAB Review

- Within 60 days of receipt of ALJ decision letter
- DAB/Medicare Appeals Council reviews medical documentation
- DAB decision provided within 90 days of receipt of review request

How to Submit Federal Court Review Requests

- Send requests for a Federal Court Review in writing
 - Department of Health and Human Services
General Counsel
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Federal District Court Review (Judicial)

- Within 60 days of receipt of DAB/Medicare Appeals Council decision letter
 - Amount in controversy = minimum \$1,760
- Federal court reviews medical documentation and issues decision

Adjustments and Cancel Claims

Claim Adjustments

- Can be made to processed (P B9997) or certain rejected claims (R B9997)
 - To change, add, or delete claim details
 - Use TOB XX7
- Reasons to submit include but not limited to
 - Reporting services not previously submitted
 - Deleting line item services billed in error
 - Correcting dates of service
 - Correcting MSP claim rejections

What You Need to Submit Claim Adjustment

- Processed or rejected claim
- Claim change reason code (condition codes)
- Adjustment reason code (for adjustments done in FISS DDE)
- Reason for adjustment in remarks (as applicable)
- Remember, adjustments follow CMS' regulations for one year timely filing of claims

Claim Change Reason Codes (Condition Codes) for Adjustments

D0	Changes to service dates
D1	Changes to charges
D2	Changes to revenue/HCPCS/HIPPS rate codes
D3	Second or subsequent interim PPS bill
D4	Changes in ICD diagnosis/procedure code
D7	Change to make Medicare the secondary payer
D8	Change to make Medicare primary payer (use when changing an MSP claim to Medicare primary)
D9	Any other change (Remarks required); use when adjusting claim rejected for MSP to make Medicare primary
E0	Change in patient status

Timely Filing Adjustment

- Claims rejected for timely filing where valid exception exists can request exception
 - Adjust original claim (type of bill XX7)
 - Use D9 claim change reason code (condition code)
 - Enter remarks using the following script: "Please bypass timely filing because... (insert reason here)"
- Claims processor approves or rejects based on justification

FISS Adjustment Reason Code File

- Use FISS Inquiries sub-menu option 16 to determine two-digit adjustment reason code to report on claim adjustments

```
1 BF BF H HHPPS FINAL NOT RECEIVED
1 BL BL A This overpayment is a result of a claim being processed with
1 BM TB A ORIGINAL PROCESSED A SBLACK LUNG, NOW MAKE MEDICARE PRIME.
1 CA CA I This claim adjustment is a result of the cost outlier approval.
1 CB CB A This overpayment is the result of the credit balance report.
1 CC CC A This overpayment is a result of the change in the charge amount.
1 CD CD I This overpayment is a result of a Quality Improvement Organizati
1 CE OT A REVENUE CODE CORRECTION.
1 CF CF A This overpayment is a result of a change in coverage.
1 CH OT O CORRECTION OF OUTPATIENT CASH DEDUCTIBLE.
1 CI OT A CORRECTION OF PATIENT CASH DEDUCTIBLE.
1 CN OT I CHANGE IN COV TO NONCOV/NONCOV TO COV DAYS
1 CO CO I This overpayment is a result of a Quality Improvement Organizati
1 CP CP I This overpayment is a result of a partially approved cost outlie
1 CR CR A A claim reconsideration adjustment has been processed.
PROCESS COMPLETED --- PLEASE CONTINUE
PRESS PF3-EXIT PF5-SCROLL BKWD PF6-SCROLL FWD
```

To Adjust or to Cancel...? That is the Question

If you are trying to...	Then you should...
Report services not previously billed	Adjust claim
Delete services billed in error	Adjust claim
Correct DOS	Adjust claim
Add/change units	Adjust claim
Correct diagnosis codes	Adjust claim
Change MSP rejected claim to primary	Adjust claim
Correct provider/MBI number	Cancel claim
Return a duplicate Medicare/OIG payment	Cancel claim
Withdraw OP claim for services that apply to 3-day payment window policy	Cancel claim

Adjusting LCD or NCD Partially Denied

- Claims partially denied by automated edits for LCDs or NCDs (no ADR involved)
 - Line item denial reason code 55A00, 55A01, 52NCD, 53NCD, or 54NCD
- Submit adjustment
 - Make corrections to DX or other code(s) that caused denial
 - Claim change reason code = D9 (add remarks)
 - Adjustment reason code = LN
 - Delete and rekey denied line(s) back to covered

Adjusting Other Partially Denied Claims

- Adjust partially denied claim if not disputing line item denial
 - Example – to bill additional services and charges
- Submit adjustment
 - Claim change reason code = D9
 - Adjustment reason code = OT
 - Remarks = "Not disputing medically denied line(s), adjusting to..."
 - Provide clear and concise explanation

Adjusting Claims Rejected for MSP

- Adjust primary claims rejected for MSP (34XXX)
 - Do not resubmit; will reject as duplicate
- Submit adjustment
 - Claim change reason code = D7 if MSP or D9 if Medicare primary
 - Adjustment reason code = depends on reason
 - Remarks = For D9 to add why Medicare primary
 - May need explanatory coding and/or to contact BCRC

Claim Cancell

- To void claim record - use TOB XX8
 - Processed (P B9997) or rejected (R B9997) claims
- Reasons to submit include, but not limited to:
 - Voiding duplicate payment
 - Claim submitted with wrong MBI or provider number
 - Certain outpatient services that fall within one/three days of inpatient hospital stay (payment window)
 - Outpatient overlap of skilled nursing facility benefit period
 - Change TOB

What You Need to Submit Claim Cancel

- Processed or rejected claim
 - Do not cancel MSP claims
 - Do not cancel claims for reasons related to MSP
- Claim change reason code (condition codes)
 - D5 = Cancel to correct MBI or Provider ID number
 - D6 = Cancel to repay duplicate payment or OIG overpayment (includes cancellation of outpatient claim when services must be on inpatient claim)
- Reason for cancel in remarks (as applicable)

Overpayments

Definition of Overpayment

- Payment received in excess of amounts properly payable under Medicare statutes/regulations
- Once identified, amount of overpayment becomes debt owed to federal government
 - Federal law requires Medicare attempt to recover all identified overpayments
 - Failure to report and return overpayment may result in Civil Monetary Penalties under [Public Law 111-148](#) of ACA

Why Overpayments Occur

- Duplicate claim submissions
- Furnishing and billing for excessive or noncovered services
- Payment for excluded or medically unnecessary services
- Payment to incorrect payee
- Payment made primary when Medicare secondary payer

Collection Process - Medicare Modernization Act of 2003

- Overpayment collection process
 - Money not taken back at time adjustment finalizes
 - Providers protected in first and second levels of appeal
 - Process known as "Limitation on Recoupment"
- Subject to 935 limitation on recoupment
 - Post-payment denials of claims by MAC and other review contractors
 - HH final claims – not RAPs
 - MSP recovery claims

Overpayments Not Subject to Limitation on Recoupment

- Not subject to 935 limitation on recoupment:
 - Provider-initiated adjustments
 - Overpayments arising from cost report determination
 - HH RAPs under HH PPS
 - Hospice cap calculations
 - Accelerated/advanced payments

Voluntary Refunds

- Provider self-identifies overpayment and refunds excess monies to Medicare
- Whenever possible, complete refund by initiating adjustment through claims system
- If adjustment not possible, complete voluntary refund form
 - [Part A Overpayment Recovery Unit Voluntary Refund Form](#)
 - Choose correct line of business (JK/J6)

Voluntary Refund Options

- Two options available when submitting voluntary refund form
 - Submit check with voluntary refund form
 - When claim(s) adjusted, Medicare applies monies to overpayment
 - Submit voluntary refund form without a check
 - When claim(s) adjusted, Medicare takes back overpayments through offset process

MSP Post-Pay Adjustments

- Medicare paid primary but another insurance carrier primary and overpayment identified:
 - Complete and submit Part A Overpayment Recovery Unit Voluntary Refund Form
 - Separate form required for each claim needing adjustment
 - Reason code must be completed assigning appropriate MSP provision to overpayment (no fault, workers' compensation, etc.)
 - Include EOB from primary payer with voluntary refund form

MSP Post-Pay Adjustment Options

- Two options available when submitting voluntary refund form related to MSP overpayment
 - Submit check with voluntary refund form
 - When claim(s) adjusted, Medicare applies monies to overpayment
 - Submit voluntary refund form without a check
 - When claim(s) adjusted, Medicare takes back overpayments through offset process

Demand Letters – Monetary Threshold

- Overpayment recovery process threshold = overpayment of \$25 or more
 - Initial demand letter sent requesting repayment once threshold reached
 - All overpayments aggregated in order to meet threshold amount for initial demand letter
 - If aggregated overpayment amount does not reach \$25 within fiscal quarterly reporting period, debt written off

What is in a Demand Letter?

- Demand letters explain
 - Medicare made an overpayment
 - Why provider is responsible
 - Interest accrues if not repaid in full within 30 days
 - Options to request immediate recoupment or ERS
 - Rebuttal/appeal rights
 - Information regarding what to do if you've filed a bankruptcy petition

Interest Charged on Overpayments

- If not repaid in full within 30 days from date of final determination
 - Accrues from date of demand letter
 - Assessed for each 30-day period that payment delayed after initial refund request
- References -
 - [CMS IOM Publication 100-06, Medicare Financial Management Manual, Chapter 4, Section 30](#)
 - [42 CFR Section 405.378](#)

Responding to a Demand Letter

- Several options available responding to initial demand letter
 - Make immediate payment
 - Request immediate recoupment
 - Request standard recoupment process (automatic offset/withholding)
 - Request ERS
 - Submit rebuttal
 - Request redetermination to appeal overpayment

Response Option #1: Make Immediate Repayment

- Request in writing
 - Include copy of demand letter
- When check received by us, applied toward intended receivable(s) as follows
 - First applied toward any interest owed then principal
 - Next applied toward other outstanding debts for provider or affiliated facilities before refunding money back to provider
 - If overpayment previously offset or satisfied

Response Option #2: Request Immediate Recoupment

- Considered voluntary repayment
- Request must be received no later than 16th day from date of initial demand letter
 - Option to avoid interest when debt recouped in full prior to/by 30th day from initial demand letter date
- Request may be submitted via mail, fax or Electronic Email Form
 - Receive confirmation email of submission, no additional follow-up notices issued regarding request

Three Immediate Recoupment Options

- One-time request
 - All current overpayment(s) addressed in referenced demand letter and all future overpayments
- All current overpayment(s) addressed in referenced demand letter only
- Request to terminate previously established immediate recoupment agreement

Response Option #3: Standard Recoupment Process

- If no action taken after receiving demand letter, recoupment automatically begins on day 41 according to 935 Limitation on Recoupment schedule
 - Interest begins accruing on day 31

Response Option #4: Request Extended Repayment Schedule

- If more than 30 days needed to repay full amount of overpayment, request ERS
- Can be requested at any time during debt collection process
 - [Set Up an Extended Repayment Schedule – J6 Part A](#)
 - [Applying For An Extended Repayment Schedule - JK Part A](#)
- Submittal within first 30 days of demand letter date may decrease necessity to withhold interim payments

ERS Interim Payment Withholding

- We may still withhold interim payments while considering ERS
 - If ERS application submitted within 15 days of demand letter, interim payment withholding may be reduced from 100% to 30% during review process
 - Any payments withheld applied to outstanding overpayment and not refunded
 - Requests for ERS greater than 36 months forwarded to CMS for approval

ERS and Interest Payments

- Interest rate charged on overpayments repaid through approved ERS schedule is rate in effect for quarter determination made
 - Rate remains constant unless provider defaults (i.e., misses two consecutive installment payments) on ERS agreement

Response Option #5: Submit Rebuttal

- Providers may submit rebuttal for any proposed recoupment action within 15 days of demand letter receipt
 - Separate from Limitation on Recoupment regulations
 - Rebuttal can be used to submit proof recoupment would adversely affect provider's financial situation
 - Rebuttal process occurs prior to appeals process
 - Does not constitute an appeal or means of disagreeing with overpayment determination

Response Option #6: File Appeal

- If you disagree with overpayment decision, you may file appeal
- Overpayment not recouped until decision made
 - Interest continues to accrue in event of affirmation of denial
 - Once first two appeal levels completed
 - If decision is affirmation, collection may resume within designated timeframes and accrued interest charged

Bankruptcy

- If demand letter received and involved in bankruptcy proceeding/filed for bankruptcy, please contact us immediately
 - Contact information included in demand letter
 - MACs work with CMS and Department of Justice to ensure particular situation handled properly
- Medicare bankruptcy regulations
 - [CMS IOM Publication 100-06, Medicare Financial Management Manual, Chapter 3, Section 140](#)

What Happens to Delinquent Debt?

- If we cannot recoup debts owed after day 41 through normal recoupment process, we
 - Phone provider if debt more than 60 days delinquent
 - Issue ITR letter to provider between days 61-150 advising debt turned over to US Treasury Dept. if not refunded
 - Place second call to provider at least seven days before debt is referred to US Treasury Dept.
 - Once Treasury Dept. responsible for debt, provider may face lien placed on payments until debt refunded in full

Overpayment Collection Timeframe

Timeframe	MAC Action
Day 1	We send Demand Letter to you
Day 1-16	We begin immediate recoupment by Day 16, if requested by you
Day 16	We begin standard recoupment for overpayments not subject to Limitation on Recoupment
Day 31	Interest begins to accrue if overpayment not paid in full by day 30
Day 41	We begin standard recoupment for overpayments subject to Limitation on Recoupment

Timeframe	MAC Action
Day 90	We attempt to contact you by phone if debt is 60 days delinquent
Day 61-150	We issue Intent to Refer (ITR) on eligible delinquent debts
Day 120-180 (Day 120 – last day to submit Appeal request)	We enter eligible delinquent debt into Debt Collection System (DCS)
At least 7 days prior to referral to Treasury	We make a second call to you before debt is referred to Treasury

Identifying Overpayments and Recoupments on Remittance Advice

Did You Know...

- While limitation on recoupment forbids immediate recoupment, providers
 - Often confused by way 935-related claim adjustments appear on their RA
 - Mistakenly believe monies related to adjusted claim(s) have been recouped

How to Recognize 935 Adjustment on RA

- RA reflects negative amount at claim level because adjustment processed in normal fashion in FISS
- RA summary page adds adjusted amount back to net provider payment in "Adjustment to Balance" field
 - 935 Limitation on Recoupment funds not recouped immediately

Common RA Remark Codes Related to Overpayments

- N469 - Alert: Claim/Service(s) subject to appeal process, see section 935 of Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA)
- N432 – Alert: Adjustment based on a Recovery Audit

PLB Codes

- PLB codes reflect adjustments made on RA not related to specific claim or service
 - Can describe offsets, refunds, interest, incentive payments, and appeal decisions
 - On SPR, locate on last page under Totals of All Claims line
 - On PC-Print and Electronic Remittance Advice, locate in Payee Summary Report section
- Listings and definitions of current valid PLB codes found in CMS [CR 7068](#)

PLB Codes Related to Overpayments and Withholdings

- FB - Forwarding Balance
 - Represents monies owed back to Medicare from previous remittance
 - Monies not available or not able to be recouped at time remittance advice processed
 - Balance moved forward to future RA to be reconciled
 - Original DCN and MBI/patient control number applied for tracking purposes.

PLB Codes Related to Overpayments and Withholdings

- WO - Overpayment Recovery
 - Occurs due to RA, PSC, CERT or other post-pay adjustment resulting in recoupment of payment
 - Subject to 935 limitation on recoupment statute
 - Demand letter also issued notifying provider of overpayment to Medicare
- WO represents principal amount and E3 represents amount applied to interest

PLB Codes Related to Overpayments and Withholdings

- OB - Offset for Affiliated Providers
 - Occurs on RA due to money withheld for affiliated provider's debt
 - On ERA, PLB03-2 segment contains information to assist identifying affiliated provider and/or their debt owed to Medicare
 - Providers need to work with their affiliated facility(s) to recoup money from those facility(s)

PLB Codes Related to Overpayments and Withholdings

- WU - Unspecified Recovery
 - Occurs on RA when debt provider owes other than Medicare debt
 - Currently utilized for IRS debts owed by provider
 - Toll-free telephone number provided on RA to contact US Treasury to determine which debt withheld money applied
 - When balancing RA, billing staff should post account as usual then determine what needs to be done to document where payment went instead towards paying IRS debt

Tips for Reporting and Refunding Overpayments

- To ensure reported overpayments process timely and avoid accrual of interest
 - Send all forms and checks to correct fax number/address
 - Fax/address information found on all Part A overpayment forms
 - Complete forms entirely
 - Include all requested documentation with submitted forms
 - Ensure your address information is correct
 - Demand letters mailed to provider's master address listed on CMS-855A enrollment application

Credit Balance Reporting

What is a "Credit Balance"?

- Improper or excess payment made to provider due to patient billing or claim processing errors
 - Overpayment not refunded to Medicare at of end of quarterly reporting period where overpayment claim processed
 - Credit balance reporting applies only to provider-identified overpayments
 - Use date claim appears on RA to determine which CBR quarterly period claim falls under
 - Not based on DOS

What is Not a "Credit Balance"?

- Post-pay adjustments subject to 935
Limitation on recoupment regulations should not be reported on CBR
- Demand letter situations created by post-pay denials and not reported on CBR
 - MAC MR
 - RA
 - CERT
 - ZPIC
 - OIG

Examples of Credit Balance

- Examples include when providers are
 - Paid twice for same service
 - Paid for services planned but not performed
 - Paid for noncovered services
 - Overpaid because of errors calculating cost-sharing amounts
 - Paid for outpatient services already reimbursed on inpatient claim

Due Dates

- Credit balance reports due within 30 days after end of calendar quarter
- Suspension warning letters issued 45 days after end of calendar quarter (15 days after due date)
- Providers placed on 100% payment suspension 60 days after end of calendar quarter (30 days after due date)

Credit Balance Timeframes

Quarter End	Credit Balance Report Due Date	Suspension Warning Letters Issued	Providers Placed on 100% Suspension
March 31	April 30	May 15	May 30
June 30	July 30	August 14	August 29
September 30	October 30	November 14	November 29
December 31	January 30	February 14	February 29/ March 1

Cost Reports

Cost Reports

- Medicare-certified institutional providers required to submit annual cost report to their MAC
- Used for purposes of determining provider's Medicare reimbursable cost
- MCR package consists of variety of cost report materials
 - Accepted by MAC when all information submitted
- [Provider Reimbursement Manual - Part II](#)

Cost Reports

- Contains provider information such as
 - Facility characteristics
 - Utilization data
 - Cost and charges by cost center (in total and for Medicare)
 - Medicare settlement data
 - Financial statement data

MCRReF

- Ability to electronically file 100% of MCR package directly to MAC, including all supporting documentation
 - Fiscal Year Ends on or after 12/31/2017
- Successful MCRReF submissions will immediately be received by provider's MAC to begin 30-day cost report acceptance process
- [Medicare Cost Reporting e-Filing System User Manual \(PDF\)](#)

HCRIS

- CMS maintains cost report data in HCRIS
 - Consists of elements included in HCRIS extract created for CMS by provider's MAC
- Cost report data available on CMS website
 - [Cost Reports by Fiscal Year | CMS](#)
 - [Medicare Provider Cost Report Public Use Files](#)
- [HCRIS Frequently Asked Questions \(PDF\)](#)

Thank You!

- Questions?

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