

# Home Health Top Claim Errors

3/25/2025

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# Today's Presenter



**NGS PROVIDER EXPERIENCE**  
Innovation | Education | Collaboration

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# Objectives

- Review the top rejection and return to provider (RTP) reason codes recently assigned to home health claims.
- Discuss how to correct the reason code errors and review billing guidelines behind the Notice of Admission and home health claims.



# Agenda

- Billing Reminders
- Top Rejection Reason Codes
- Top Return to Provider (RTP) Reason Codes
- Resources
- Q&A

# Billing Reminders

# Notice of Admission

- Purpose: opens a home health admission period in the CWF which allows other HHAs and providers of care to see an open home health admission
- When to submit
  - HHA received appropriate physician's written or verbal order containing services required for an initial visit
  - HHA conducted initial visit at start of care and admitted patient to HH care
- Must be submitted within five calendar days from the start of care on 32A bill type

# Requirements Prior to Claim Billing

- Submitted after all services for the period of care have been provided
- Physician has signed plan of care and all orders
- Face-to-face encounter has been completed
- OASIS has been submitted and accepted by iQIES
  - Any warnings, regardless of the OASIS being accepted, should be investigated and corrected
- Claim submission:
  - At the end of a 30-day period of care, or
  - When patient is discharged for meeting goals under plan of care (if before 30-day period end date), or
  - When patient transfers from one HHA to another



# Claim Billing Reminders

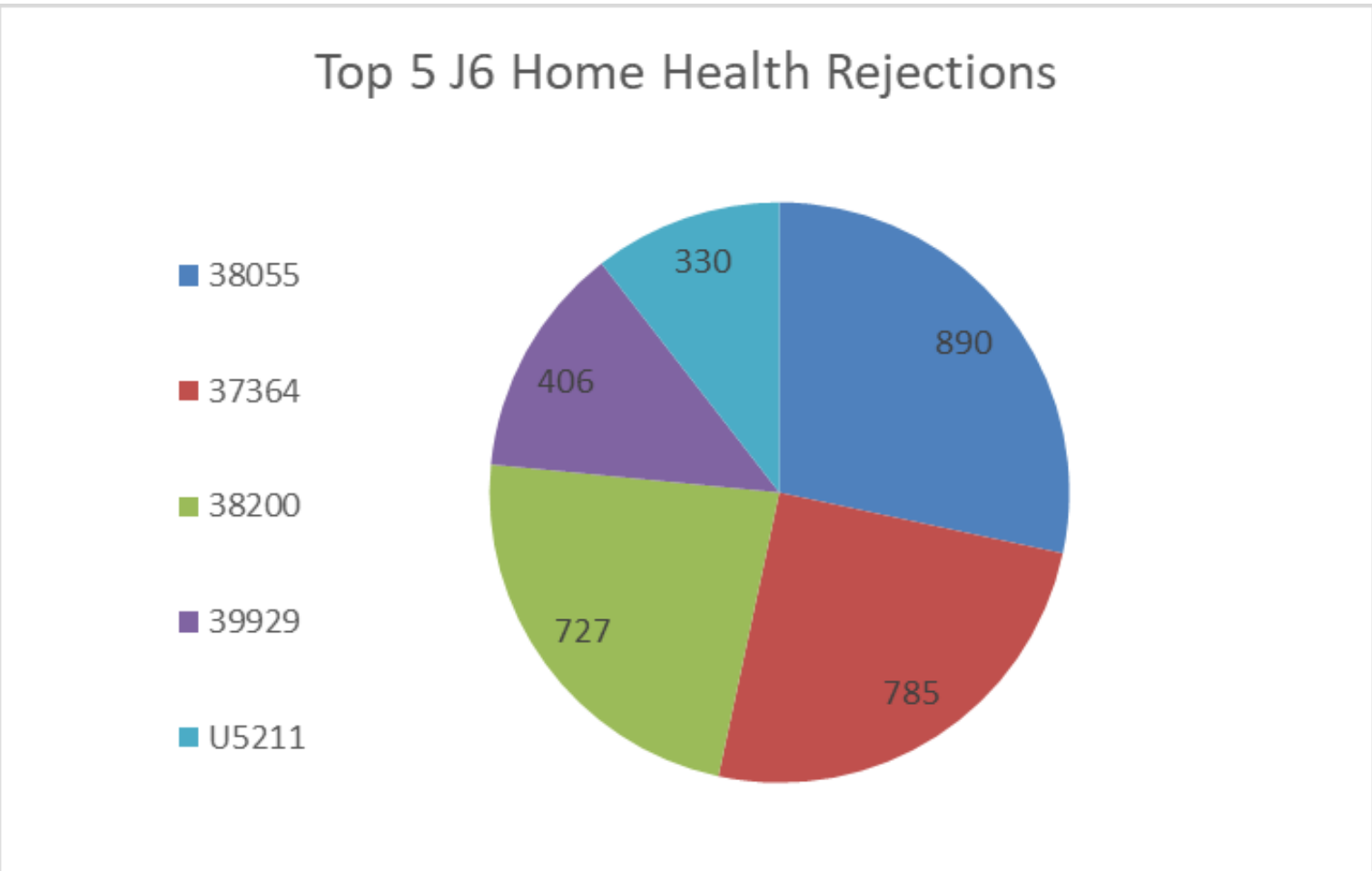
- 329 type of bill – initial submission; 327 TOB – adjustment
- 0023 revenue line must be billed with a Grouper-produced HIPPS or any valid HIPPS under PDGM
- Must report revenue lines for all services (covered and non-covered) provided to the beneficiary during the period of care
  - Includes services provided directly and/or under arrangements
- Must contain a revenue line with a site of service code
- Must be received in the FISS claims processing system within one calendar year of the period end date

# Claim Status/Locations

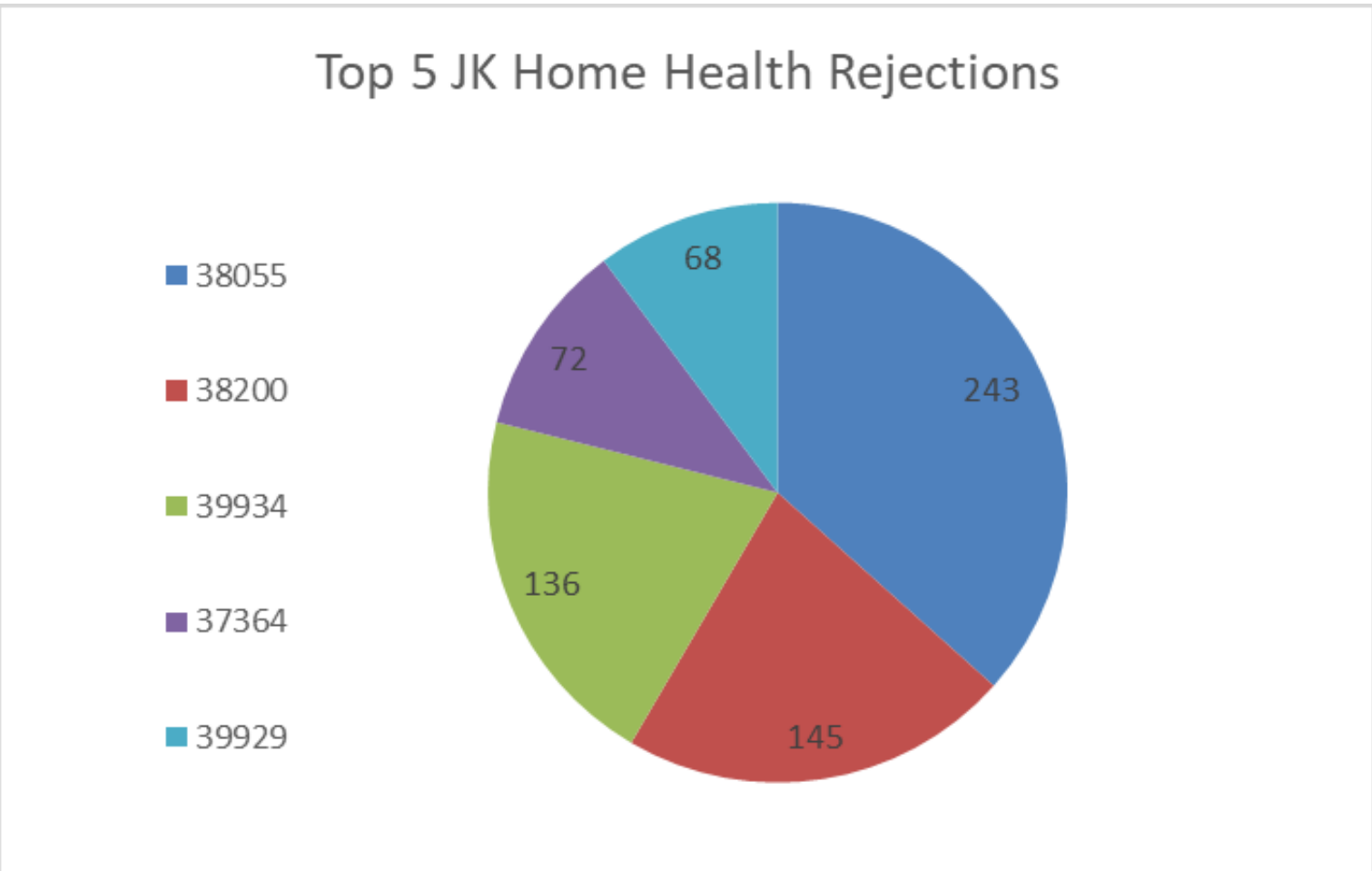
- Rejections (R B9997)
  - Claims need to be resubmitted
  - In limited situations, claims need to be adjusted
- Returned to Provider (T B9997)
  - Claims need to be corrected and resubmitted

# Top Rejection Reason Codes

# Top 5 J6 Home Health Rejections



# Top 5 JK Home Health Rejections



# Rejection Reason Codes 38055

- RC Narrative: This home health claim was submitted as a Medicare primary claim and contains exact service dates corresponding to a previously submitted claim for the same provider with at least one matching revenue code.

# Correcting Reason Codes 38055

- Submit adjustment bill (3X7 TOB) to add any services not included on the original claim
  - All services provided to a beneficiary within the home health period of care must be submitted on one claim
- Always verify previously billed information prior to submitting any new billing to Medicare
  - Avoid overlap edits for your own claims

# Rejection Reason Code 37364

RC Narrative: The dates of service fall within the span of days between the NOA receipt date and the claim From date on TOB 32X with Statement From Date on or after 01/01/2022, the NOA receipt date is 30 or more days from the claim From date, the payment amount returned from HH Pricer is equal to zero and the PROVIDER REIM field on MAP103A is blank.



# Background/Correcting Reason Code 37364

- Applies when the receipt date of the NOA is more than 30 days out from the start of admission (i.e., the From/Thru date on the NOA) and the claim From date falls within that period of 30 days causing zero payment
- If the NOA was late due to billing error, the rejection with zero payment is correct.
- If the NOA was late due to system error, a late penalty exception request may be submitted.

# Rejection Reason Code 38200

RC Narrative: This claim is an exact duplicate of a previously submitted claim where the following fields on the history and processing claim are the same:

- HIC Number
- TOB (all three positions of any TOB)
- Provider number
- Statement from date of service
- Statement through date of service
- Total charges (0001 revenue line)
- Revenue code
- HCPCS and modifiers (if required by revenue code file)

# Background/Correcting Reason Code 38200

- FISS will only accept one original billing (329) for each period of care
- Duplicate reason code assigned when a processed claim is in the FISS history file
  - Any claim billed with the same information will reject as a duplicate
- Verify billing already submitted
  - Check remit, NGSConnex, or FISS/DDE

# Rejection Reason Codes 39934/39929

## Reason Code Narratives:

- 39934: All revenue lines on the claim denied as noncovered and one or more of the lines denote beneficiary liability
- 39929: Each line of charges on this claim has been rejected and/or rejected and denied

# Correcting Reason Codes 39934/39929

- Verify line level rejection information to determine the rejection for each line of the claim
- Access MAP171D for line-item detail information
  - Hit F2 once or F11 twice from page two of the claim to access MAP171D in DDE
  - Hover over reason code in the line details in NGSConnex

# Rejection Reason Code U5211

RC Narrative: The statement from/through date is greater than the date of death on the beneficiary master record.

- Billing guideline: The period of care claim through date cannot go beyond a patient's date of death
  - Discharge/through date must be the on or before the date of death

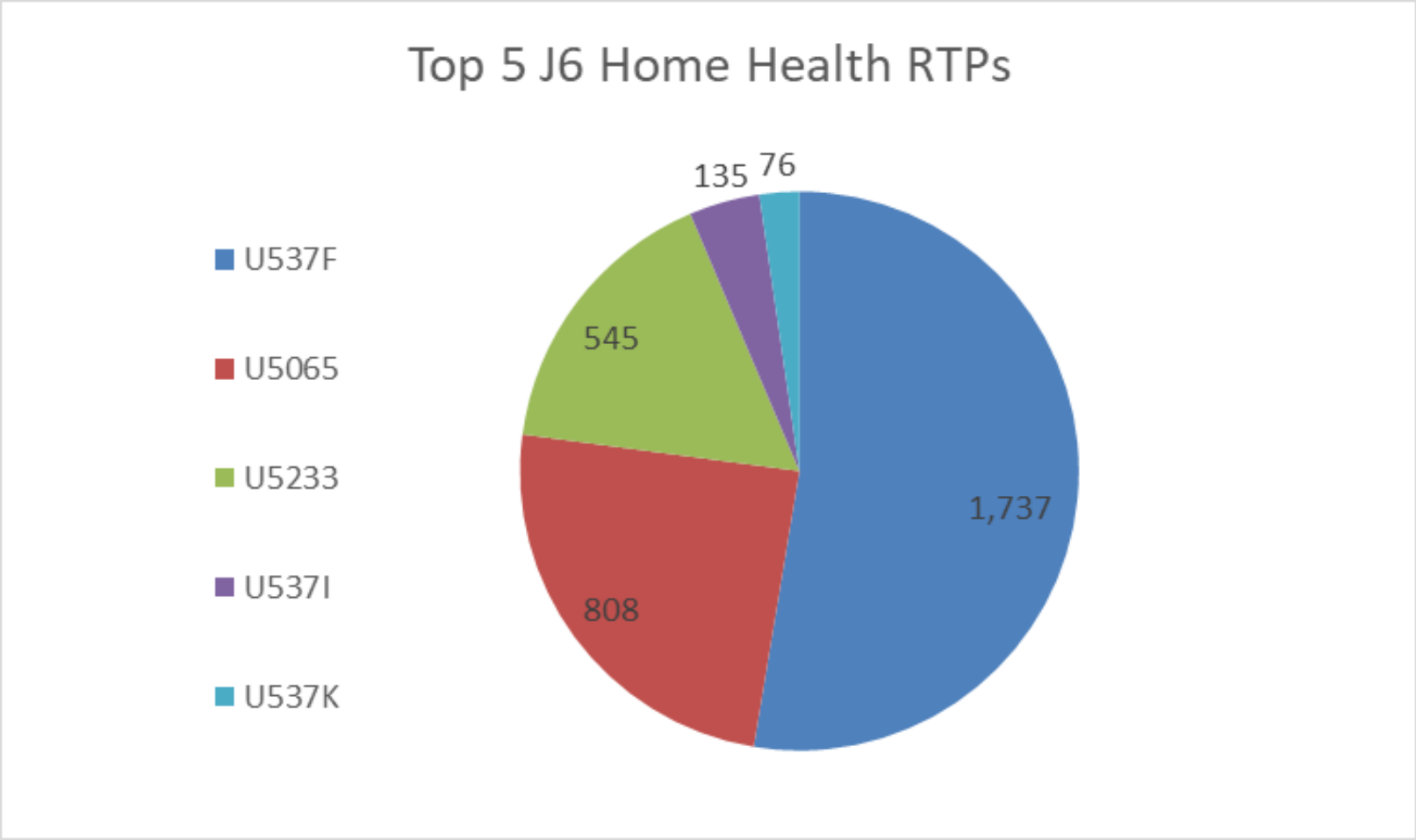
# Correcting Reason Code U5211

- Verify the patient MBI and dates of service
  - If appropriate, correct claim information and submit a new claim or update returned claim.
  - If the actual date of death was reported in error to the Social Security office, that office must be contacted to correct the date.
  - If the beneficiary is still alive, the beneficiary or their representative must contact Social Security to correct – this cannot be corrected through the MAC.

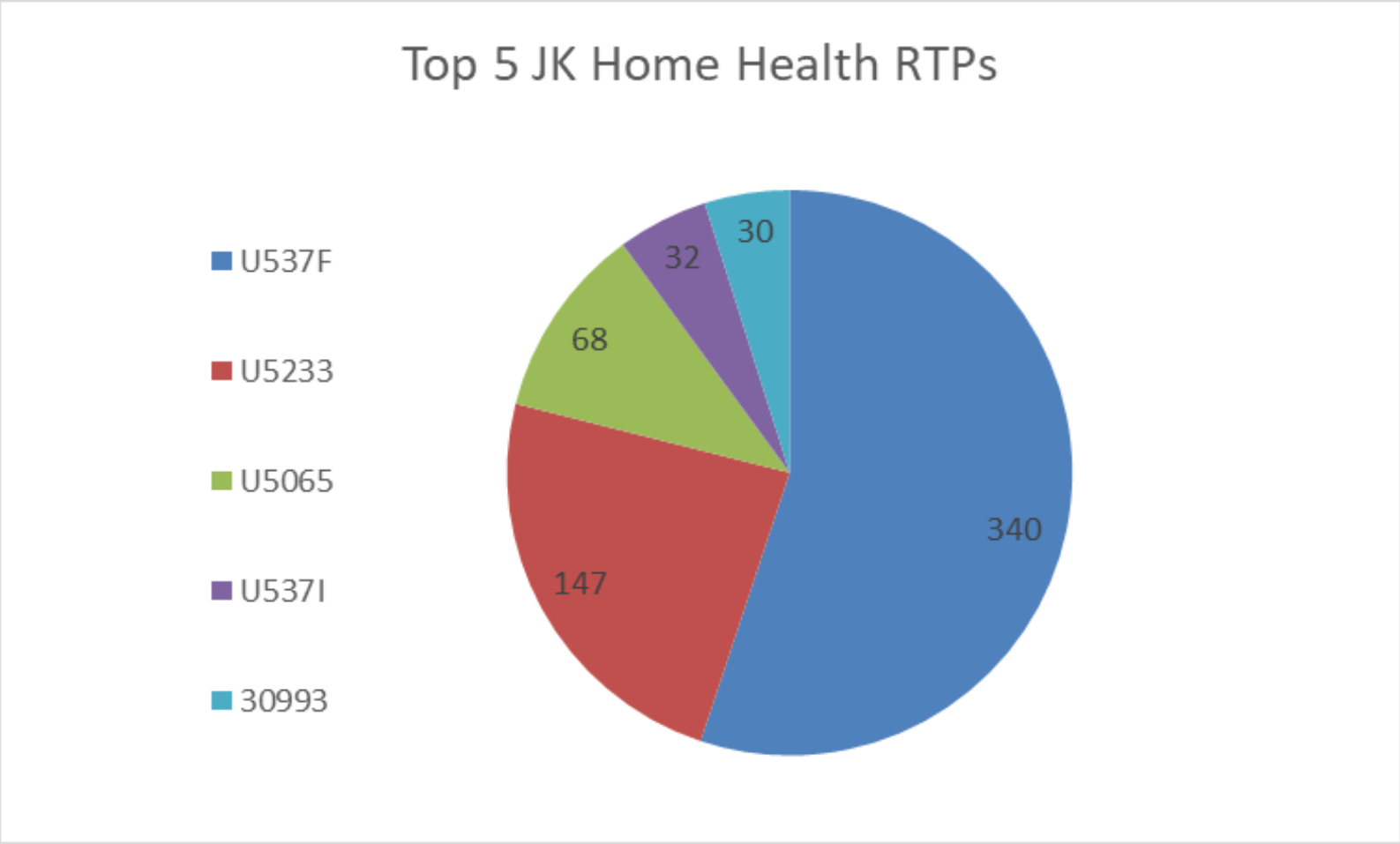
# Top RTP Reason Codes



# Top 5 J6 Home Health RTPs



# Top 5 JK Home Health RTPs



# RTP Reason Code U537F

RC Narrative: The From date on the HH NOA falls within an existing home health admission period.

# Correcting Reason Code U537F

- Always verify billing before submitting a new NOA for a beneficiary admission
- Assigned correctly on duplicate NOAs for the same admission period
- Assigned correctly on NOAs if the provider CCN does not match the CCN on the prior HH episode posted at CWF
  - When opening a new admission for a transferred patient, the NOA should be billed with condition code 47

# RTP Reason Code U5065

RC Narrative: The claim From date is prior to the MBI effective date on the CWF crosswalk file and the MBI is the oldest occurrence in the HIC crosswalk file for the beneficiary at CWF

- Billing guideline: HHAs may only bill services provided to the patient after the effective date of their Medicare coverage

# Correcting Reason Code U5065

- Verify the effective date(s) for the MBI of the beneficiary prior to billing
- If a new MBI has been issued to the beneficiary, all claims after the effective date of the new MBI must be submitted with the new MBI
  - Dates of service before the MBI change date – use old or new MBIs
  - Span-date claims with a “From Date” before the MBI change date – use old or new MBIs
  - Dates of service that are entirely on or after the effective date of the MBI change – use new MBIs
  - Need to submit OASIS with new MBI
  - NOA does not need to be corrected with new MBI

# RTP Reason Code U5233

RC Narrative: No Medicare payment can be made because the services on this claim fall within or overlap a Medicare Advantage Organization (MAO) enrollment period

- Billing guideline: Services can only be paid by Original Medicare or an MA plan for the period a beneficiary is entitled/enrolled in either plan

# Correcting Reason Code U5233

- Patient starts period of care under MA plan then switches to Original Medicare
  - Complete new OASIS
  - Submit NOA to open admission period under Original Medicare
- Patient starts period of care under Original Medicare then switches to MA plan
  - Bill Medicare up to the MAO enrollment date
  - Submit claim with patient status code '06'



# Correcting Reason Code U5233 (cont.)

- HHAs should submit a claim prior to the MAO enrollment date with patient status code '06' when the HHA is aware the patient will become enrolled in an MAO
- Always verify MA plan information prior to rendering services/billing the period of care
- Billing guidelines: [CMS IOM Publication 100-04, Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 10, Sections 10.1.5.2 and 40.2](#)

# RTP Reason Code U537I

RC Narrative: The From and Through dates on HH claim fall outside a home health admission period

- Background/Correction
  - The NOA opens an admission period for a beneficiary – all claim dates of service must follow the date of admission until the patient is discharged
  - There cannot be any dates billed prior to the admission date
  - Verify the from and through dates billed and correct as appropriate

# RTP Reason Code U537K

- Home Health cancellation (32D) does not match home health admit period.

# Correcting Reason Code U537K

- An incorrectly billed NOA should be canceled and resubmitted for errors such as:
  - Admission, From, or Through dates entered wrong
  - Incorrect beneficiary information
- All fields submitted on the 32D (cancel NOA) should match the fields on the 32A (original NOA)

# RTP Reason Code 30993

RC Narrative: A claim has been submitted with an MBI and MBI/HIC combination was not found on the MBI cache or CWF MBI crosswalk

# Correcting Reason Code 30993

- The beneficiary Medicare number billed on the NOA and claim must be a valid MBI
  - Most of the time this error is caused by numbers/letters of the Medicare number being inverted or mistyped
- Verify the MBI submitted and ensure it matches what is on the beneficiary's Medicare card/CWF

# Resources

# National Government Services Web Resources

- [NGS website](#)
- Events
  - Upcoming education sessions
  - Past events material
- Education
  - Medicare Topics
    - Home Health Billing (job aids)
- Top Claim Errors



# CMS Resources

## CMS website

- CMS IOM Publication 100-02, [Medicare Benefit Policy Manual \(cms.gov\)](#)
  - Chapter 7 (Home Health Services)
- CMS IOM Publication 100-04, [Medicare Claims Processing Manual \(cms.gov\)](#)
  - Chapter 10 (Home Health Agency Billing)
- Medicare Learning Network ([MLN home page | CMS](#))
  - Resource Materials
  - Training
  - MLN Matters Articles
- [Home Health Agency \(HHA\) Center | CMS](#)

# Listen to Our HH+H Podcast



## Navigating Medicare: Home Health & Hospice Insights for Providers

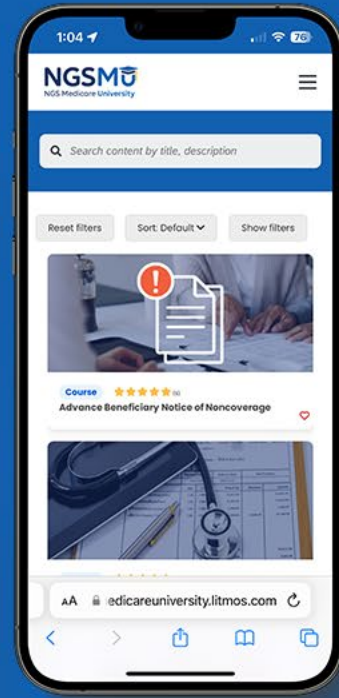
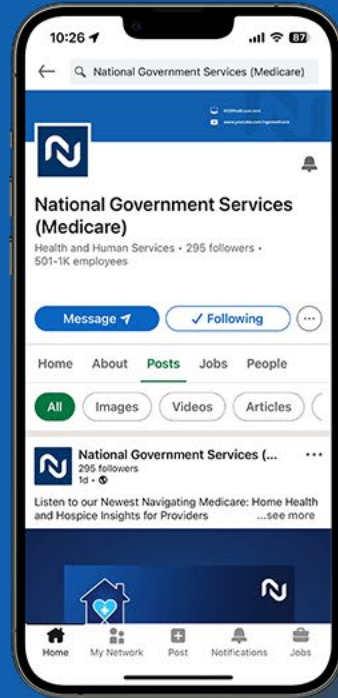
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# Questions?

Thank you!