Skilled Nursing Facility and Nursing Facility Reporting of Physician Consultation Services

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) would like to remind skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) and nursing facilities (NFs) of the evaluation and management (E/M) services coding policy that has been in effect since January 1, 2010. If a physician or non-physician practitioner is furnishing that practitioner’s first E/M service for a Medicare beneficiary in a SNF or NF during the patient’s facility stay, even if that service is provided prior to the federally mandated visit, the practitioner may bill the most appropriate E/M code that reflects the services the practitioner furnished, whether that code be an initial nursing facility care code (CPT codes 99304 – 99306) or a subsequent nursing facility care code (CPT codes 99307 – 99310) if documentation and medical necessity do not meet the requirements for billing an initial nursing facility care code. Prior to January 1, 2010, this service may have been reported and paid using a CPT consultation code under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule. The Medicare Claim Processing Manual, Publication 100-04, Chapter 12, Section 30.6.13 will be updated to reflect this policy. Additional information on reporting physician consultation services can be found in MLN Matters Article SE1010 and may be viewed at [http://www.cms.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE1010.pdf](http://www.cms.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE1010.pdf).

This will pertain to Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield Medicare Advantage Private Fee For Service providers, non-contracting providers who provide services to our HMO and PPO members, and our contracted providers who have their reimbursement indexed to the Medicare Fee Schedule.

Thank you,

Senior Provider Outreach

Services provided by Empire HealthChoice HMO, Inc. and/or Empire HealthChoice Assurance, Inc., licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, an association of independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield plans. The Blue Cross and Blue Shield names and symbols are registered marks of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.
Skilled Nursing Facility and Nursing Facility Reporting of Physician Consultation Services

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) would like to remind skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) and nursing facilities (NFs) of the evaluation and management (E/M) services coding policy that has been in effect since January 1, 2010. If a physician or non-physician practitioner is furnishing that practitioner’s first E/M service for a Medicare beneficiary in a SNF or NF during the patient’s facility stay, even if that service is provided prior to the federally mandated visit, the practitioner may bill the most appropriate E/M code that reflects the services the practitioner furnished, whether that code be an initial nursing facility care code (CPT codes 99304 – 99306) or a subsequent nursing facility care code (CPT codes 99307 – 99310) if documentation and medical necessity do not meet the requirements for billing an initial nursing facility care code. Prior to January 1, 2010, this service may have been reported and paid using a CPT consultation code under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule. The Medicare Claim Processing Manual, Publication 100-04, Chapter 12, Section 30.6.13 will be updated to reflect this policy. Additional information on reporting physician consultation services can be found in MLN Matters Article SE1010 and may be viewed at http://www.cms.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE1010.pdf.

This will pertain to Empire Blue Cross Medicare Advantage Private Fee For Service providers, non-contracting providers who provide services to our HMO and PPO members, and our contracted providers who have their reimbursement indexed to the Medicare Fee Schedule.

Thank you,

Senior Provider Outreach

Services provided by Empire HealthChoice HMO, Inc. and/or Empire HealthChoice Assurance, Inc., licensees of the Blue Cross Association, an association of independent Blue Cross plans. The Blue Cross names and symbols are registered marks of the Blue Cross Association.