



Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Physician Transmittal No. 135

September 14, 2011

To: Physicians, Osteopaths, Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Speech Therapists, Nurse Practitioners, Nurse Anesthetists, Certified Nurse Midwives, Podiatrists, Optometrists, Nutritionists, Audiologists, and Therapeutic Behavioral Aides

Susan J. Tucker
From: Susan J. Tucker, Executive Director
Office of Health Services

NOTE: Please ensure that appropriate staff members in your organization are informed of the contents of this transmittal.

Re: DHMH Compliance with National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) Edits

Under section 6507 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) of 2010, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (the Department) is mandated to comply with National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) edits for the Physician's Program. NCCI was developed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The NCCI edits are used to ensure correct and accurate reporting of procedure codes by all of the providers listed above, which would prevent improper reimbursement for duplicate services.

Providers are encouraged to visit the CMS "NCCI Edits Overview" website to learn more about this federally mandated program. The implementation of the NCCI edits by the Department may result in reduced provider payments including, but not limited to:

- Procedure codes that are mutually exclusive (mutually exclusive codes are clinically unlikely to be performed on the same patient on the same day, such as two diagnostic studies aimed at achieving the same result)
- Procedure codes that are inappropriately bundled (an inappropriately bundled code is when a component procedure is billed with a comprehensive procedure).

Providers are responsible for ensuring their claims are in compliance with all current NCCI edits. Claims that are submitted to the Department with a date of service on or after

October 1, 2010, as stated under section 6507 of the ACA, will be reviewed. Reimbursements on services found to be in conflict with the NCCI edits will be retracted by the Department or a designee of the Department. The retraction will occur on claims that have dates of service from October 1, 2010. In accordance with CMS, NCCI edits are not subject to official appeal or review by the Department.

Should you have questions regarding this transmittal, please contact David Wertheimer, Health Care Policy Analyst for the Physician's Program. He may be reached at (410) 767-1462 or at DWertheimer@dhmh.state.md.us

cc: David Wertheimer
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