



## 2021 Annual Update of Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Codes for Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Consolidated Billing (CB) Update

MLN Matters Number: MM11968

Related Change Request (CR) Number: 11968

Related CR Release Date: September 11, 2020 Effective Date: January 1, 2021

Related CR Transmittal Number: R10349CP Implementation Date: January 4, 2021

### PROVIDER TYPES AFFECTED

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This MLN Matters Article is for physicians, other providers, and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs), including Home Health & Hospice (HH&H) MACs and Durable Medical Equipment (DME) MACs, for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries who are in a Part A covered Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) stay.

### PROVIDER ACTION NEEDED

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CR 11968 makes changes to HCPCS codes and Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) designations that Medicare uses to revise its Common Working File (CWF) edits to allow MACs to make appropriate payments in accordance with policy for SNF CB in Chapter 6, Section 110.4.1 and Chapter 6, Section 20.6 in the Medicare Claims Processing Manual (<https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/clm104c06.pdf>). Make sure your billing staffs are aware of these changes.

### BACKGROUND

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The CWF currently has edits in place for claims received for Medicare beneficiaries in a Part A-covered SNF stay, as well as for beneficiaries in a non-covered stay. These edits allow only those services excluded from CB to be separately paid. Barring delays in the MPFS, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will give the new code files to CWF by November 1, 2020.

As soon as possible after the MPFS is released, CMS will post the new code files at <http://www.cms.gov/SNFConsolidatedBilling/>. It is **important and necessary** for the providers to view the “General Explanation of the Major Categories” file located at the bottom of each year’s update in order to understand the Major Categories, including additional exclusions not driven by HCPCS codes.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The official instruction, CR 11968, issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/r10349cp.pdf>.

If you have questions, your MACs may have more information. Find their website at <http://go.cms.gov/MAC-website-list>.

## DOCUMENT HISTORY

| Date of Change     | Description               |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| September 16, 2020 | Initial article released. |

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