



050919 NEWS BLAST

ATTENTION PROVIDERS QUARTERLY UPDATES VERSION 25.1 NATIONAL CORRECT CODING INITIATIVE (NCC/CCI) CHANGES EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2019

Refer to [User Guide: National Correct Coding Initiative \(NCCI\)](#)

According to The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the National Correct Coding Initiative (NCC/CCI) is to encourage correct coding methodologies and to regulate improper coding that leads to inappropriate payment for Part B claims. CMS develops these coding policies based on coding conventions defined in the American Medical Association's Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) manual, national and local policies and edits, coding guidelines developed by national societies, analysis of standard medical and surgical practice, and review of current coding practice.

REMINDER: Column 1 codes are the Comprehensive codes and Column 2 codes are the Component codes
(*Component codes are included in the Column 1 Comprehensive codes*).

REMINDER: Modifier indicator flag '1' associated with a pair of CPT codes allows eligible providers to bill both services for the same patient on the same day provided documentation supports medical necessity for both codes and proper use of a CCM* modifier and the modifier is affixed to the **component** column 2 CPT code.
Modifier flag '0' associated with a pair of CPT codes will only allow payment of one of the codes, i.e., no modifier will bypass the NCC edit.

REMINDER: *Correct Coding Modifiers (CCM) is used to address modifier flag '1' scenarios, i.e., Anatomical modifiers are used in NCC modifier flag '1' scenarios; see below referenced website for CCM* modifiers.
<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/NationalCorrectCodingEd/index.html>
NOTE: Modifiers 25 and 57 are only ever affixed to Evaluation & Management (E&M) CPT codes (99201-99499)

Effective April 1, 2019, Version 25.1 edits include 11,811 new CPT code pairs, 182 deleted CPT code pairs and changes to 40 CPT code pairs. There are also updates to Mutually Exclusive Code Edits with 112 additions, 1 deletions and 87 revisions.

Irrigation Services: A majority of the version 25.1 edits involve a single CPT code 96523 that have been bundled with nearly 9,500 distinct services, ranging from anesthesia to evaluation and management codes.
96523 Irrigation of implanted venous access device for drug deliver systems.

Biopsy codes (11102/11103+, 11104/11105+, 11106/11107+) are now column 2 codes with a "1"modifier indicator (which requires a modifier to override the bundle edit provided the appropriate clinical circumstances are met) for a number of Integumentary surgery codes, including some fine needle biopsy (10004+ - 10021) and debridement procedures (11004-11006, 11010-11012).

The codes are also column 1 codes with other debridement procedures, including 11043-11047+ and numerous other Integumentary surgery codes.

Take care if biopsy codes are used with some evaluation & management codes (E&M) codes. The codes are currently NOT deemed an edit pair with new patient outpatient E&M codes 99201-99205 (Office or other outpatient visit for the evaluation and management of a new patient...) because typically for a new patient, the provider has to evaluate and go above and beyond a typical office visit to determine if the procedure would be required.

With established patient visits 99211-99215 a modifier will be needed as the established visit is integral to the biopsy performed.

Lesion destruction codes (17000, 17004, 17110, 17111) are now column 2 codes with a "1"modifier indicator. These codes have been bundled with dozens of other lesion-trim and lesion-removal services.

Psychological and/or Neuropsychological testing evaluation service codes (96130-96146) have a “1” modifier indicator to the new adaptive behavior assessment codes (97151-97152) and adaptive behavior treatment codes (97153-97158) which have a “0” modifier indicator.

CCI version 25.1 scorecard					
Changes effective April. 1. (For more on CCI version 25.1 edits, see related story, p. 1.)					
Code range	CCI code pairs added	CCI code pairs deleted	MUEs added	MUEs deleted	MUEs revised
0001T – 0999T	177	9	0	0	2
00000 – 09999	267	0	0	0	0
10000 – 19999	606	149	0	0	0
20000 – 29999	1,628	0	0	0	78
30000 – 39999	1,065	0	0	0	0
40000 – 49999	890	1	0	0	0
50000 – 59999	761	0	0	0	0
60000 – 69999	914	0	0	0	1
70000 – 79999	633	0	0	0	0
80000 – 89999	1,793	12	0	0	0
90000 – 99999	967	3	0	0	0
A0000 – V9999	361	4	94	1	6
Totals	10,062	178	94	1	87
Note: Code range is based on the comprehensive code of the edit.					
Source: Part B News analysis of CCI version 25.1 changes.					

CCI version 25.0 scorecard					
Changes effective Jan. 1. (For more on CCI version 25.0 edits, see related story, p. 1.)					
Code range	CCI code pairs added	CCI code pairs deleted	MUEs added	MUEs deleted	MUEs revised
0001T – 0999T	6,690	1,864	34	29	2
00000 – 09999	390	793	0	0	0
10000 – 19999	3,244	880	15	3	20
20000 – 29999	4,904	2,554	4	2	0
30000 – 39999	5,722	2,354	10	3	0
40000 – 49999	2,427	1,865	2	3	8
50000 – 59999	2,449	1,218	3	1	0
60000 – 69999	1,951	2,448	0	8	0
70000 – 79999	902	494	10	6	6
80000 – 89999	8,295	559	51	3	2
90000 – 99999	4,329	3,992	35	13	1
A0000 – V9999	530	414	5	31	10
Totals	41,833	19,435	169	102	49
Note: Code range is based on the comprehensive code of the edit.					
Source: Part B News analysis of CCI version 25.0 changes.					

See prior News Blasts for previous NCCI Changes and prior Quarter score cards (available via www.medtronsoftware.com):

CMS MUE: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/coding/nationalcorrectcodinited/mue.html>

Contact MEDTRON's Support Dept for assistance or any questions via:

From MEDPM or MEDEHR Sign On screens, double click on 'support@medtronsoftware.com' to compose an email to the Support Dept.

-OR-

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