



ATTN: ALL PROVIDERS

**QUARTERLY UPDATES
NATIONAL CORRECT CODING INITIATIVE (NCC/CCI)
VERSION 23.3**

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) was developed to encourage correct coding methodologies and to regulate improper coding that leads to inappropriate payment for Part B claims.

<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/NationalCorrectCodingInitEd/index.html>

CMS (through an outsourced vendor - Correct Coding Solutions, LLC.) develops these coding policies based on coding conventions defined in the American Medical Association's (AMA) 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.

Version 23.3, Changes Effective October 1, 2017

REMINDER: Column 1 codes are the Comprehensive codes and Column 2 codes are the Component codes (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. 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) are used to address modifier flag '1' scenarios. i.e., Anatomical modifiers are used in NCC modifier flag '1' scenarios; see above referenced website for CCM* modifiers. Modifier 25 is only affixed to E&M codes.

The latest NCCI edits effective October 1, 2017 include more than 1,500 new code pairs, 18 deleted pairs and 181 services taking medically unlikely edit (MUE) billing caps.

The dominant edits in the quarterly update pertains to two eye-screening codes (99174 and 99177) that are non-covered services under Medicare:

Column 1	Column 2	Modifier
99174	0469T	0
99177	0469T	0

Roughly 20% of the new code pairs, the ocular-screening bundles take a '0' modifier indicator with eye exam codes (92002, 99004, 99012 and 92014), which means billing both services is restricted and the claim will be denied. The remaining eye-screening bundles take a '1' modifier indicator, including those will office- based E&M codes (99201-99215), so both services can be reported with modifier 25 on the E&M code.

Critical Care (99291 and 99292) can no longer be billed with Emergency Department codes (99281-99285); prior to Oct 1, 2017 a '1' modifier indicator was allowed.

Drug Screening codes (G0481, G0482, G0483 and G0484) – v23.3 edits pair each of the HCPCS codes with nearly 60 other screening codes ranging from 80320 to 80377 applying a '0' modifier indicator to all pairs.

Orthopedic edits bundles shoulder release code (23020) into arthroplasty codes (23470-23474) with a '1' modifier indicator. The edit applies to billing the two codes on the same shoulder; providers can bill them on opposite shoulders.

Moderate Sedation codes (99151-99153) are bundled as components of a number of procedures, including closed treatment of hip dislocation (27266), manipulation of hip joint (27275), manipulation of knee joint (27570), Achilles tendon tenotomy (27606) and manipulation of ankle (27860).

Column 1	Column 2	Modifier
99291	99281	0
99291	0469T	0
99291	99174	1
99291	99177	1
99291	99281	0
99291	99282	0
99291	99283	0
99291	99284	0
99291	99285	0
99292	0469T	0
99292	99174	1
99292	99177	1
99292	99281	0
99292	99282	0
99292	99283	0
99292	99284	0
99292	99285	0

Obesity counseling (G0447) now has an upper cap of two units, or 30 minutes.

NOTE: MAI (MUE Adjudication Indicator), i.e., for units > MUE limits:

- 1 – Separate line billed with modifier 59
- 2 – Never payable (except when charge has modifier 55)
- 3 – Only with documentation supporting additional unit(s)

Medically Unlikely Edits		G0447	
Source:	2017 Medically Unlikely Edits (MUE)		
Publisher:	CMS		
Date:	October 01, 2017		
Services	MUE	MAI	MUE Rationale
Practitioner Services	2	3	CMS Policy

SCORE CARDS:

CCI Version 23.0 scorecard
Changes effective January 1.
(For more on CCI Version 23.0 edits, see story, p. 1.)

Code range	CCI code pairs added	CCI code pairs deleted
0001T - 0999T	7,924	2,543
00000 - 09999	4,348	3,520
10000 - 19999	4,131	2,833
20000 - 29999	22,403	12,978
30000 - 39999	19,889	11,065
40000 - 49999	10,495	6,492
50000 - 59999	9,016	5,107
60000 - 69999	12,865	6,644
70000 - 79999	988	560
80000 - 89999	946	469
90000 - 99999	5,706	2,713
A0000 - V9999	779	819
Totals	99,490	55,743

Note: Code range is based on the comprehensive code of the edit.
Source: Part B News analysis of CCI 23.0 changes.

CCI Version 23.1 scorecard
Changes effective April 1.
(For more on CCI Version 23.1 edits, see Part B News)

Code range	CCI code pairs added	CCI code pairs deleted
0001T - 0999T	19	48
00000 - 09999	1	0
10000 - 19999	2,395	0
20000 - 29999	10,983	0
30000 - 39999	6,375	39
40000 - 49999	5,715	7
50000 - 59999	4,930	0
60000 - 69999	5,558	7
70000 - 79999	43	0
80000 - 89999	387	3
90000 - 99999	694	23
A0000 - V9999	112	57
Totals	37,212	184

Note: Code range is based on the comprehensive code of the edit.
Source: Part B News analysis of CCI 23.1 changes.

CCI, MUE version 23.2 scorecard
Changes effective July 1.
(For more on CCI version 23.2 edits, see related story, p. 2.)

Code range	CCI code pairs added	CCI code pairs deleted	MUEs added	MUEs deleted	MUEs revised
0001T — 0999T	23	0	5	0	0
00000 — 09999	1,514	0	0	0	0
10000 — 19999	53	0	0	0	0
20000 — 29999	4	4	0	0	0
30000 — 39999	125	2	0	0	0
40000 — 49999	140	0	0	0	0
50000 — 59999	14	0	0	0	10
60000 — 69999	4	0	0	0	8
70000 — 79999	337	0	0	0	0
80000 — 89999	3	3	0	0	4
90000 — 99999	881	51	0	0	4
A0000 — V9999	1,245	40	52	0	86
Totals	4,443	100	57	0	112

Note: Code range is based on the comprehensive code of the edit.
Source: Part B News analysis of CCI v23.2 changes.

MUE edit changes were added as of the NCCI version 23.2 scorecards published via the [Part B News](#).

CCI Version 23.3 scorecard
Changes effective Oct. 1.
(For more on CCI version 23.3 edits, see related story, p. X)
Note: Code range is based on the comprehensive code of the edit.

Code range	CCI code pairs added	CCI code pairs deleted	MUEs added	MUEs deleted	MUEs revised
0001T — 0999T	276	0	10	0	3
00000 — 09999	0	0	0	0	0
10000 — 19999	53	0	0	0	0
20000 — 29999	39	0	0	0	6
30000 — 39999	127	1	0	0	0
40000 — 49999	111	0	0	0	0
50000 — 59999	32	3	0	0	1
60000 — 69999	22	0	0	0	0
70000 — 79999	7	3	0	0	1
80000 — 89999	4	0	0	0	5
90000 — 99999	529	11	8	0	1
A0000 — V9999	334	0	163	1	10
Totals	1,534	18	181	1	27

Source: Part B News analysis of CCI v23.3 changes.

CMS MUE: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/NationalCorrectCodInitEd/MUE.html>

Contact Software Support 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 Software Support Dept.

-OR-

Phone: (985) 234-0599 (local)
(800) 978-0599 (toll free)

-OR-

Fax: (985) 234-0609