



QUARTERLY UPDATES VERSION 25.3 NATIONAL CORRECT CODING INITIATIVE (NCC/CCI) & MEDICALLY UNLIKELY EDITS (MUE) CHANGES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 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/NationalCorrectCodInitEd/index.html>
NOTE: Modifiers 25 and 57 are only ever affixed to Evaluation & Management (E&M) CPT codes (99201-99499)

Effective October 1, 2019, Version 25.3 edits include 118 new CPT code pairs, 48 deleted CPT code pairs and 2 changes to CPT code pairs. There are also updates to Mutually Exclusive Code Edits with 15 additions, 1 deletions and 4 revisions. The CMS MUE files are available via: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/coding/nationalcorrectcodinitEd/mue.html>

Notable changes in Version 25.3:

Among the new pairs are 20 services bundled into code **20933** (*Allograft, includes templating, cutting, placement and internal fixation, when performed; hemi cortical intercalary, partial*), which Medicare approved for coverage starting Jan. 1, 2019. Hip arthroplasty codes **27130** and **27132** are bundled into **20933** and marked with a "1" modifier; which means providers can bypass the edit with a CCI-approved modifier.

The modifier must be used to avoid claim delays on some of these code pairs which may hold up large payments.

There are several updates to the Medically Unlikely Edit (MUE) count for specific services. For example, the MUE count for code **28740** (*Arthrodesis, midtarsal or tarsometatarsal, single joint*) will decrease from two units to one. Which means that effective October 1, providers will only be allowed to report a single unit of 28740 instead of two.

There are several dozen new code bundles that will restrict a range of same-day services, including some allograft procedures. See the entire file of quarterly updates available via the CMS website:

<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/NationalCorrectCodInitEd/Downloads/Quarterly-Modifier-Indicator-Physicians-Practitioners-10012019.zip>

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

CCI version 25.3 scorecard					
Changes effective Oct. 1, 2019.					
Code range	CCI code pairs added	CCI code pairs deleted	MUEs added	MUEs deleted	MUEs revised
0001T – 0999T	0	0	0	0	0
00000 – 09999	0	0	0	0	0
10000 – 19999	0	0	0	0	0
20000 – 29999	20	20	0	0	2
30000 – 39999	3	0	0	0	0
40000 – 49999	0	1	0	0	0
50000 – 59999	0	0	0	0	0
60000 – 69999	0	0	0	0	0
70000 – 79999	0	0	0	0	0
80000 – 89999	17	0	0	0	0
90000 – 99999	0	0	0	0	0
A0000 – V9999	4	27	15	1	2
Totals	44	48	15	1	4
Note: Code range is based on the comprehensive code of the edit.					
Source: Part B News analysis of CCI version 25.3 changes.					

CCI version 25.2 scorecard					
Changes effective July. 1. (For more on CCI version 25.2 edits, see related story, p. 2.)					
Code range	CCI code pairs added	CCI code pairs deleted	MUEs added	MUEs deleted	MUEs revised
0001T – 0999T	86	0	0	0	0
00000 – 09999	0	0	0	0	0
10000 – 19999	0	0	0	0	0
20000 – 29999	24	0	0	0	1
30000 – 39999	12	2	0	0	1
40000 – 49999	1	0	0	0	9
50000 – 59999	0	0	0	0	1
60000 – 69999	4	0	0	0	1
70000 – 79999	3	1	0	0	13
80000 – 89999	0	0	0	0	18
90000 – 99999	119	0	0	0	2
A0000 – V9999	1,625	0	87	1	13
Totals	1,874	3	87	1	59

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.					

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

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