



Healthcare Provider Taxonomy Codes (HPTCs) October 2017 Code Set Update

MLN Matters Number: MM10141

Related Change Request (CR) # 10141

Related CR Release Date: August 18, 2017

Effective Date: October 1, 2017

Related CR Transmittal Number: R3842CP

Implementation Date: January 2, 2018 –
Contractors with capability to do so will
implement effective October 1, 2017

PROVIDER TYPES AFFECTED

This MLN Matters® Article is intended for physicians, other providers, and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs), including Home Health and Hospice MACs and Durable Medical Equipment MACs, for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

PROVIDER ACTION NEEDED

Change Request (CR) 10141 instructs MACs to obtain the most recent Healthcare Provider Taxonomy Code (HPTC) set and to update their internal HPTC tables and/or reference files.

BACKGROUND

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) requires that covered entities comply with the requirements in the electronic transaction format implementation guides adopted as national standards. The institutional and professional claim electronic standard implementation guides (X12 837-I and 837-P) each require use of valid codes contained in the HPTC set when there is a need to report provider type or physician, practitioner, or supplier specialty for a claim.

You should note that:

1. Valid HPTCs are those codes approved by the National Uniform Claim Committee (NUCC) for current use.
2. Terminated codes are not approved for use after a specific date.
3. Newly approved codes are not approved for use prior to the effective date of the code set update in which each new code first appears.

4. Specialty and/or provider type codes issued by any entity other than the NUCC are not valid.
5. Medicare would be guilty of non-compliance with HIPAA if MACs accepted claims that contain invalid HPTCs.

The HPTC set is maintained by the NUCC for standardized classification of health care providers. The NUCC updates the code set twice a year with changes effective April 1 and October 1. The HPTC list is available for view from the Washington Publishing Company (WPC) website at www.wpc-edi.com/codes and can be downloaded from the NUCC's website <http://www.nucc.org/index.php/code-sets-mainmenu-41/provider-taxonomy-mainmenu-40>.

Although the NUCC generally posts their updates on the WPC webpage 3 months prior to the effective date, changes are not effective until April 1 or October 1 as indicated in each update. The changes to the code set include the addition of a new code and addition of definitions to existing codes. When reviewing the Health Care Provider Taxonomy code set online, you can identify revisions made since the last release by color code:

- New items are green
- Modified items are orange
- Inactive items are red.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The official instruction, CR10141, issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/2017Downloads/R3842CP.pdf>.

If you have any questions, please contact your MAC at their toll-free number. That number is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/Medicare-FFS-Compliance-Programs/Review-Contractor-Directory-Interactive-Map/>.

DOCUMENT HISTORY

| Date of Change | Description |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| August 18, 2017 | Initial Article Released |

Disclaimer This article was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This article may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents. CPT only copyright 2016 American Medical Association. All rights reserved.