



Healthcare Provider Taxonomy Codes (HPTCs) April 2019 Code Set Update

MLN Matters Number: MM11121

Related Change Request (CR) Number: 11121

Related CR Release Date: February 15, 2019 Effective Date: July 1, 2019

Related CR Transmittal Number: R4239CP Implementation Date: July 1, 2019

PROVIDER TYPES AFFECTED

This MLN Matters Article is for physicians, providers, and suppliers billing Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

CR 11121 directs MACs to obtain the most recent Healthcare Provider Taxonomy Codes (HPTCs) code set and use it to update their internal HPTC tables and/or reference files. Make sure your billing staffs are aware of these changes.

BACKGROUND

The HPTC set is maintained by the National Uniform Claim Committee (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 or for download from the NUCC Web site at www.nucc.org/index.php/code-sets-mainmenu-41/provider-taxonomy-mainmenu-40.

The changes to the code set include the addition of a new code and addition of definitions to existing codes. When reviewing the HPTC code set online, revisions made since the last release are identifiable by the following color code:

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

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:

- Valid HPTCs are those codes approved by the NUCC for current use
- Terminated codes are not approved for use after a specific date and 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
- Specialty and/or provider type codes issued by any entity other than the NUCC are not valid
- Medicare would be guilty of non-compliance with HIPAA if MACs accepted claims that contain invalid HPTCs

Although the NUCC generally posts their updates on the Washington Publishing Company (WPC) web page 3 months prior to the effective date, changes are not effective until April 1 or October 1 as indicated in each update.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The official instruction, CR1121, issued to your MAC regarding this change, is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/2019Downloads/R4239CP.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
February 19, 2019	Initial article released.

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