

Department of Veterans Affairs Billing Guidelines for Health Care Provided to Veterans and Beneficiaries

Chief Business Office Purchased Care Department of Program Integrity (DPI)



July 2013

Introduction

The Department of Veterans Affairs would like to take this opportunity to thank you, the healthcare provider, who ensures our Veterans and their families receive the best level of care and we hope that level of care continues throughout the healthcare community

Applicable Laws

- 18 U.S.C §1031 Major fraud against the United States
- 18 U.S.C §1035 False statements relating to health care matters
- 18 U.S.C §1342 Fictitious name or address
- 18 U.S.C §1346 Definition of "scheme or artifice to defraud
- 18 U.S.C §1347 Health care fraud
- 31 U.S.C.§3729 False Claims Act
- 42 U.S.C. §1320a-7b Health Care Programs
- 42 U.S.C. §1320a-7b(b) Anti-Kickback Statute

Applicable Laws

- Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act (IPERA)
- The Federal Managers Financial Integrity Act codified in 31 U.S.C § 3512
- The Affordable Care Act
- Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996
- Presidential Executive Order 13520 Reducing Improper Payments
- OMB Cir No. A-123 Management's Responsibility for Internal Controls

Target Audience

- New Health Care Professionals
- Existing Health Care Professionals
- Medical Coders
- Billing Departments
- Any Entity Who Submits Medical Claims to the Veterans Affairs

Training Objectives

- Convey The Department of Veterans Affairs commitment to excellence
- Provide the basics of how claims should be billed
- Assist providers on how to bill correctly
- Provide practical examples

Claims Coding Guidance

• Non VA care is like or similar to Medicare

- Very seldom will the VA accept Blue Cross Blue Shield or Medicaid codes
- AMA coding guidelines

Claims Coding Guidance

- National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) and Medically Unlikely Edits (MUE)
- Prospective Payment System (PPS)
- Excessive charges
- Reimbursement

Program Integrity Claims Reviews

- Program Integrity Tools
- Delay in claims processing
- Utilize Medicare's Claims Processing Manual CMS 100-04 at:

http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Internet-Only-Manuals-IOMs-Items/CMS018912.html?DLPage=1&DLSort=0&DLSortDir=ascending

CMS-1500

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			SIGNED						



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INCLUDING DEGREES OR CREDENTIALS		33. BILLING PROVIDER INFO & PH # ()										
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NUCC Instruction Manual available at: www.nucc.org

APPROVED OMB-0938-0999 FORM CMS-1500 (08/05)

CMS-1450 (UB-04)

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Qui Tam/Whistleblower

The Qui Tam (aka Whistleblower Law) provisions of the False Claims Act, stipulates that a private party (employee of a health care organization) may file a complaint on behalf of the government (Federal & State) to prosecute alleged false claims.

Report allegations to:

VA Office of Inspector General (VA OIG) VA Inspector General Hotline (53E) P.O. Box 50410 Washington, DC 20091-0410 Telephone: 1-800-488-8244 Fax: 1-202-565-7936

vaoighotline@va.gov



- Ensure that the codes reflect the level of care provided
- Valid use of modifiers
- Align your medical coding with Medicare's billing guidelines
- Correct and accurate claims will not be suspect to Program Integrity and will not be delayed

Helpful Web Resources

Form CMS 1500 processing manual

http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/clm104c26.pdf

Form CMS 1450 processing manual

http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/clm104c25.pdf

Medicare Claims Processing Manual

http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/clm104c12.pdf

References

Veterans Affairs manages several health care programs that reimburse private health care providers for caring for our Veterans and their eligible family members. Unfortunately, these health care programs have a different statutory and regulatory authority, which creates diverse payment methodologies. The majority of VA health care programs utilize Medicare's payment methodologies or something very similar.

Therefore, providers and facilities that utilize Medicare's billing and coding guidelines will greatly minimize claim delays or rejections as a result of the Program Integrity Tools Improper Payment Review.

The following Medicare link is an excellent source of billing and coding guidance for all providers and facilities:

Medicare Claim Processing Guide http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/clm104c01.pdf