KNOWLEDGE • RESOURCES • TRAINING

How to Use the Medicare National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) Tools



https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/NationalCorrectCodInitEd/index

To Learn More...

If you find this How To booklet helpful, then you may wish to review the other booklets in this series. To locate these booklets, go to the <u>MLN Publications</u> page and search for items containing the words how to.

CPT Disclaimer-American Medical Association (AMA) Notice

CPT codes, descriptions and other data only are copyright 2020 American Medical Association. All Rights Reserved. Applicable FARS/HHSAR apply. CPT only copyright 2020 American Medical Association. All rights reserved. CPT is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association. Applicable FARS/HHSAR Restrictions Apply to Government Use. Fee schedules, relative value units, conversion factors and/or related components are not assigned by the AMA, are not part of CPT, and the AMA is not recommending their use. The AMA does not directly or indirectly practice medicine or dispense medical services. The AMA assumes no liability for data contained or not contained herein.



Table of Contents

Updates	3
Introduction What is the Medicare National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI)? Background: NCCI Edits Why Would a Health Care Professional, Supplier, or Provider Use the NCCI Webpage, Tables, and Manual? How up to date are the NCCI Tables? How to Locate the NCCI Tables and Manual	3 3 4 5 5
Using The NCCI Tools Looking Up Procedure-To-Procedure (PTP) Code Pair Edits How to Use the PTP Code Pair Tables Looking up Medically Unlikely Edits (MUEs)	5 5 8 11
Using the NCCI Policy Manual for Medicare	14
Filtering the PTP Data Tables	15
Resources	17



Updates

Note: No substantive content updates.

Introduction

What is the Medicare National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI)?

The Medicare National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) promotes national correct coding methodologies and controls improper coding leading to inappropriate payment. The coding policies are based on coding conventions defined in the American Medical Association's (AMA's) Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) Manual, national and local Medicare policies and edits, coding guidelines developed by national societies, standard medical and surgical practice, and/or current coding practice.

To Learn More...

- **Please note:** The information in this publication applies to individuals or entities who submit claims for Medicare Part B services.
- For more information about the Medicaid NCCI program, refer to the <u>National Correct Coding Initiative in</u> <u>Medicaid</u> webpage.

Prior to the implementation of NCCI edits, all proposed edits are released for review and comment to the AMA, national medical/surgical societies, and other national health care organizations, including non-physician professional societies, hospital organizations, laboratory organizations, and durable medical equipment organizations.

Background: NCCI Edits

The NCCI contains two provider-type choices of Procedure-to-Procedure (PTP) code pair edits and three provider-type choices of Medically Unlikely Edits (MUEs).

PTP Code Pair Edits

PTP code pair edits are automated prepayment edits that prevent improper payment when certain codes are submitted together for Part B-covered services.

1. PTP Edits-Practitioners

PTP code pair edits are applied to claims submitted by physicians, non-physician practitioners, and Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASCs).

2. PTP Edits-Hospital

PTP edits are applied to Types of Bills (TOBs) subject to the Outpatient Code Editor (OCE) for the Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS). These edits are applied to outpatient hospital services and other facility services including, but not limited to, therapy providers (Part B Skilled Nursing Facilities



(SNFs)), comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facilities (CORFs), outpatient physical therapy and speech-language pathology providers (OPTs), and certain claims for home health agencies (HHAs) billing under TOBs 22X, 23X, 75X, 74X, 34X.

MUEs

Medically Unlikely Edits (MUEs) are used by the Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs), including Durable Medical Equipment (DME) MACs, to reduce the improper payment rate for Part B claims. An MUE for a HCPCS/CPT code is the maximum units of service that a provider would report under most circumstances for a single beneficiary on a single date of service. Not all HCPCS/CPT codes have an MUE.

1. Practitioner MUEs

These edits are applied to all claims submitted by physicians and other practitioners.

2. Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Supplier MUEs

These edits are applied to claims submitted to DME MACs. (At this time, this file will include HCPCS A-B and E-V codes in addition to HCPCS codes under the DME MAC jurisdiction.)

3. Facility Outpatient MUEs

These edits are applied to all claims for TOB including, but not limited to 13X, 14X, and Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) [85X].

MUE values are not utilization guidelines. Providers should continue to only report services that are medically reasonable and necessary. Providers may be subject to medical review of their claims even if they report UOS less than or equal to the MUE value for a code.

Modifiers

Modifiers consist of 2 alphanumeric characters that give additional information. They are applied to HCPCS/ CPT codes only if the clinical circumstances justify using the modifier. A modifier should not be appended to a HCPCS/CPT code solely to bypass an MUE or PTP code pair edit if the clinical circumstances do not justify using it. If the Medicare Program imposes restrictions on applying a modifier, the modifier may only be used to bypass a PTP code pair or MUE edit if the Medicare restrictions are fulfilled. We will learn more about modifiers on pages 10 and 11 of this booklet.

Add-On Codes

An Add-on Code (AOC) is a HCPCS/CPT code that describes a service that, with rare exception, is performed in conjunction with another primary service by the same practitioner. An AOC is rarely eligible for payment if is the only procedure reported by a practitioner.

For information about AOC edits, please visit Add-on Code Edits.

Why Would a Health Care Professional, Supplier, or Provider Use the NCCI Webpage, Tables, and Manual?

Accurate coding and reporting of services are critical aspects of proper billing. Service that is denied based on PTP code pair edits or MUEs may not be billed to Medicare beneficiaries; a provider cannot use an Advance Beneficiary Notice of Noncoverage (ABN) to seek payment from a Medicare beneficiary. The NCCI tools found



on the CMS webpage (including the <u>NCCI Policy Manual for Medicare</u>) help providers avoid coding and billing errors and subsequent payment denials.

Note: It is important to understand, however, that the NCCI does not include all possible combinations of correct coding edits or types of unbundling that exist. Providers are obligated to code correctly even if edits do not exist to prevent using an inappropriate code combination. Should providers determine that claims have been coded incorrectly, they are responsible to contact their Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) about potential payment adjustments. Per a ruling on the Federal Register, providers and suppliers are subject to the statutory requirements found in section 1128J(d) of the Social Security Act and could face potential False Claims Act (FCA) liability, Civil Monetary Penalties Law (CMPL) liability, and exclusion from federal health care programs for failure to report and return an overpayment.

For more information on overpayments refer to the Medicare Overpayments Fact Sheet.

How Up to Date are the NCCI Tables?

The tables are updated quarterly and loaded into the Medicare claims payment processing systems and onto the CMS NCCI webpage.

Select the Quarterly PTP and MUE Version Update Changes link in the left navigation menu of the <u>NCCI Edits</u> webpage to find quarterly changes to the PTP and MUE tables.

The NCCI program updates the NCCI Policy Manual for Medicare annually.

How to Locate the NCCI Tables and Manual

The NCCI Policy Manual, MUEs, and PTP edits are accessed through the NCCI Edits webpage.

Links to the PTP Coding Edits, Medically Unlikely Edits, and NCCI manual webpages are provided in the menu on the left side of the NCCI Edits webpage.

Using the NCCI Tools

Looking Up Procedure-To-Procedure (PTP) Code Pair Edits

The first step in looking up an edit is to select the PTP Coding Edits link in the menu on the left side of the <u>National Correct Coding Initiative Edits</u> webpage on the CMS webpage.



Home > Medicare > National Correct Coding Initiative Edits > PTP Coding Edits

National Correct Coding Initiative Edits	PTP Coding Edits
NCCI Policy Manual for Medicare	Since 1996 the Medicare NCCI procedure to procedure (PTP) edits have been assigned to either the Column One/Column Two
NCCI Policy Manual Archive	Correct Coding edit file or the Mutually Exclusive edit file based on the criterion for each edit. The Mutually Exclusive edit file included edits where two procedures could not be performed at the same patient encounter because the two procedures were
Correspondence Language Manual Archive	included edits where two procedures could not be performed at the same patient encounter because the two procedures were mutually exclusive based on anatomic, temporal, or gender considerations. All other edits were assigned to the Column One/Column Two Correct Coding edit file. There are important changes to these files described below.
Medically Unlikely Edits	In order to simplify the use of PTP edit files, CMS consolidated the two edit files into the Column One/Column Two Correct Coding
Quarterly PTP and MUE Version Update	edit file. Separate consolidations occurred for the two practitioner PTP edit files and the two PTP edit files used for OCE. This
Changes	change occurred for PTP edits in NCCI version 18.1 scheduled for April 1, 2012. After this date, it will only be necessary to search the Column One/Column Two Correct Coding edit file for active or previously deleted edits. Effective April 1, 2012, CMS will no
PTP Coding Edits	longer publish a Mutually Exclusive edit file on its website for either practitioner or outpatient hospital services since all active and
Add-on Code Edits	deleted edits will appear in the single Column One/Column Two Correct Coding edit file on each website. The edits previously
NCCI FAQs	contained in the Mutually Exclusive edit file were NOT deleted but were moved to the Column One/Column Two Correct Coding edit file.
	Practitioner PTP - In NCCI version 18.1 for practitioners scheduled for April 1, 2012, all edits in the Mutually Exclusive edit file were moved to the Column One/Column Two Correct Coding edit file with the same implementation and, if relevant, deletion date as the edits have in the mutually exclusive edit file. These edits were not deleted from NCCI but were moved to the Column One/Column Two Correct Coding edit file. The net result is that the NCCI version 18.1 Column One/Column Two Correct Coding edit file. The net result is that the NCCI version 18.1 Column One/Column Two Correct Coding edit file. The net result is that the NCCI version 18.1 Column One/Column Two Correct Coding edit files. The CMS website has a single Column One/Column Two Correct Coding edit file for practitioner PTP.
	Outpatient PTP used in OCE - Effective April 1, 2012 the change was implemented on the CMS website where a single Column
	One/Column Two Correct Coding edit file contains all active NCCI edits and deleted NCCI edits that previously were contained in

As of October 8, 2014, the PTP text files have been modified for Section 508 compliancy purposes. They now include headers and are tab delimited.

Figure 1: Results from Selecting PTP Coding Edits

Figure 1 shows the screen after selecting PTP Coding Edits. Scroll to the Related Links section at the bottom of the page to find links to the Hospital PTP Edits tables and the Practitioner PTP Edits tables.

We will refer to the tables in Figure 1.2 as Hospital PTP Edits Table 1, Hospital PTP Edits Table 2, Hospital PTP Edits Table 3, Hospital PTP Edits Table 4, Practitioner PTP Edits Table 1, Practitioner PTP Edits Table 2, Practitioner PTP Edits Table 3, and Practitioner PTP Edits Table 4 in this booklet.

Copyright © 2020, the American Hospital Association, Chicago, Illinois. Reproduced with permission. No portion of this publication may be copied without the express written consent of the AHA.



Related Links

Hospital PTP Edits v271r0 effective April 1, 2021 (579,297 records) 0001M/80050 – 27894/G0471 (posted 03/01/2021)	Hospital PTP Edits Tables
Hospital PTP Edits v271r0 effective April 1, 2021 (521,532 records) 28001/0213T - 49999/49570 (posted 03/01/2021)	
Hospital PTP Edits v271r0 effective April 1, 2021 (385,700 records) 50010/0213T - 79999/36000 (posted 03/01/2021)	
Hospital PTP Edits v271r0 effective April 1, 2021 (203,371 records) 80003/80002 R0075/R0070 (posted 03/01/2021)	
Practitioner PTP Edits v271r0 effective April 1, 2021 (620,263 records) 0001M/36591 - 25999/96523 (posted 03/01/2021)	PTP Edits Tables
Practitioner PTP Edits v271r0 effective April 1, 2021 (605,577 records) 26010/01810 - 36909/J2001 (posted 03/01/2021)	
Practitioner PTP Edits v271r0 effective April 1, 2021 (584,943 records) 37140/0213T - 60699/96523 (posted 03/01/2021)	
Practitioner PTP Edits v271r0 effective April 1, 2021 (644,832 records) : 61000/0213T - R0075/R0070 (posted 03/01/2021)	
Hospital PTP Edits v270r0 effective January 1, 2021 (578,749 records) 0001M/80050 – 27894/G0471 (posted 12/01/2020)	
Hospital PTP Edits v270r0 effective January 1, 2021 (521,307 records) 28001/0213T - 49999/49570 (posted 12/01/2020)	
Hospital PTP Edits v270r0 effective January 1, 2021 (385,437 records) 50010/0213T - 79999/36000 (posted 12/01/2020)	
Hospital PTP Edits v270r0 effective January 1, 2021 (203,078 records) 80003/80002 R0075/R0070 (posted 12/02/2020)	
Practitioner PTP Edits v270r0 effective January 1, 2021 (619,579 records) 0001M/36591 - 25999/96523 (posted 12/01/2020)	
Practitioner PTP Edits v270r0 effective January 1, 2021 (605,350 records) 26010/01810 - 36909/J2001 (posted 12/01/2020)	
Practitioner PTP Edits v270r0 effective January 1, 2021 (584,660 records) 37140/0213T - 60699/96523 (posted 12/01/2020)	
Practitioner PTP Edits v270r0 effective January 1, 2021 (644,531 records) : 60000/0213T - R0075/R0070 (posted 12/01/2020)	

Figure 1.2: Results from Selecting PTP Coding Edits Cont.

The names of the Hospital PTP Edits or Practitioner PTP Edits indicate the code range of edits listed in the table, beginning with the first Column 1 or Column 2 code edit in the file and ending with the last Column 1 or Column 2 code edit in the file. Column 1 CPT codes, which end with letters M, U, or T, appear in the first table for both Hospital PTP Edits and Practitioner PTP Edits. Column 1 HCPCS Level II codes, which begin with letters A-V appear in the last table for both Hospital PTP Edits.

Code Ranges		
The following HCPCS/CPT code ranges	can be found in the tables:	
00000-09999: Anesthesia Services		
10000-19999: Surgery (Integumentary	/ System)	
20000-29999: Surgery (Musculoskelet	al System)	
30000-39999: Surgery (Respiratory, Ca	ardiovascular, Hemic and	
Lymphatic Systems)		
40000-49999: Surgery (Digestive Syste	em)	
50000-59999: Surgery (Urinary, Male	Genital, Female Genital,	
Maternity Care and Del	ivery Systems)	
60000-69999: Surgery (Endocrine, Ne	rvous, Eye and Ocular Adnexa,	
and Auditory Systems)		
70000-79999: Radiology Services		
80000-89999: Pathology/Laboratory S	iervices	
90000-99999: Medicine, Evaluation a	nd Management Services	
A0000-V9999: Supplemental Services		
0001T-0999T: Category III Codes		
0001M-0010M: MAAA Codes		
0001U-0034U: PLA Codes		



Click on the Hospital PTP Edits or Practitioner PTP Edits table you wish to view or save.

A license agreement will appear. To continue to the table selected, the terms and conditions of the AMA copyright must be accepted.

The tables can be opened in Microsoft Excel (the file ending in xlsx) or text file format. Select the format you want to open the table.

Helpful Hint

The files are zipped due to their size, which allows for faster download. If the files do not automatically unzip, you may need the appropriate software to unzip these files. If you scroll to the bottom of the PTP Coding Edits page and click on Help with File Formats and Plug-Ins, you can download free software. Remember that NCCI tables are updated quarterly and saved tables must be replaced in order to have the most current information.

How to Use the PTP Code Pair Tables

The Column One/Column Two Correct Coding edit tables contain PTP code pairs. We will demonstrate how to use the PTP code pair tables, using code 99215 and two of the four Practitioner PTP Edits tables as our examples. Our examples using the Practitioner PTP Edits tables and code 99215 will show:

- When is a code the reimbursable code of a PTP code pair?
- How you identify all PTP code pairs when a code is not reimbursable or when it is only reimbursable if an appropriate modifier is used?
- When an appropriate modifier may be used

What are the Column 1/Column 2 PTP Code Pair Tables?

Although the Column Two code is often a component of a more comprehensive Column One code, this relationship is not true for many edits. In the latter type of edit, the PTP code pair edit simply represents two codes that should not be reported together, unless an appropriate modifier is used. For example, a provider should not report a vaginal hysterectomy code and total abdominal hysterectomy code together. Many procedure codes should not be reported together because they are mutually exclusive of each other. Mutually exclusive procedures cannot reasonably be performed at the same anatomic site or same beneficiary encounter.

An example of a mutually exclusive situation is the repair of an organ that can be performed by two different methods. Only one method can be chosen to repair the organ. A second example is a service that can be reported as an initial service or a subsequent service.



In order to reduce the amount of claims denied sex/diagnosis and sex/procedure edits, the KX modifier is now a multipurpose informational modifier and will be used to identify services for transgender, ambiguous genitalia, and hermaphrodite beneficiaries in addition to its other existing uses. Therefore, if a gender/procedure or gender/diagnosis conflict edit occurs, the KX modifier alerts the MAC that it is not an error and will allow the claim to continue with normal processing.

When is a Code the Reimbursable Code of a PTP Code Pair?

The Column One/Column Two Correct Coding edit tables contain PTP code pairs. If a provider submits the two codes of an edit pair for payment for the same beneficiary on the same date of service, the Column One code is eligible for payment and the Column Two code is denied. However, if both codes are clinically appropriate and an appropriate NCCI-associated modifier is used, the codes in both columns are eligible for payment. Supporting documentation must be in the beneficiary's medical record. For more information on the properly using modifiers 59 and -X{EPSU}, please see the <u>MLN SE1418</u> article.

To determine when our example code 99215 is the reimbursable code of a PTP code pair, we open the Practitioner PTP Edits Table containing edits from 61000/0213T - R0075/R0070 (or similar range) to search for 99215 in Column 1. We can use the Microsoft Excel filter tool to easily search for all instances of 99215 in Column 1 in the table. (The Filtering the PTP Data Tables section at the end of this booklet gives instructions for using the filter tool in Microsoft Excel.)

Figure 2 shows part of the Practitioner PTP Edits Table containing edits from 61000/0213T - R0075/R0070 (or similar range), with our example code 99215 in Column 1.

6

5

•	2	0		U	U		
A	В	С	D	E	F	G H I	J
			С	olumn1/Column 2	2 Edits		
Column 1	Column 2	* = In existence prior to 1996	Effective Date	Deletion Date *=no data	Modifier 0=not allowed 1=allowed 9=not applicable	PTP Edit Rationa	le
99215	G0101		19980401	19980401	9	More extensive procedure *	
99215	G0102		20000605	*	0	Standards of medical / surgio	al practice
99215	G0104		19980401	19980401	9	More extensive procedure *	
99215	G0105		19980401	19980401	9	More extensive procedure *	
99215	G0106		19980401	19980401	9	More extensive procedure *	
99215	G0107		19980401	19980401	9	More extensive procedure *	
99215	G0117		20020101	*	0	Standards of medical / surgio	al practice
99215	G0118		20020101	*	0	Standards of medical / surgio	al practice
99215	G0120		19980401	19980401	9	More extensive procedure *	
99215	G0245		20020701	*	0	Standards of medical / surgio	al practice

Figure 2: Column 1/Column 2 table with 99215 in Column 1

7

CPT only copyright 2020 American Medical Association. All rights reserved.



1

2

3

Δ

- 1 Column 1 indicates the payable code.
- 2 Column 2 contains the code that is not payable with this particular Column 1 code, unless a modifier is permitted and submitted.
- 3 The third column indicates if the edit was in existence prior to 1996.
- 4 The fourth column indicates the effective date of the edit (year, month, date).
- 5 The fifth column indicates the deletion date of the edit (year, month, date).
- 6 The sixth column indicates if using a modifier is permitted. This number is the modifier indicator for the edit. (The Modifier Indicator Table, shown on page 11 of this booklet, provides further explanation.)
- The seventh column provides the underlying basis for each PTP edit.

Our search shows a portion of all Column 1/Column 2 PTP code pairs where 99215 is the payable code and every code that is not separately payable when billed with 99215 (unless a modifier is allowed) as a result of the Column 1/Column 2 policies.

Figure 2 shows, for example, that a physician will not be reimbursed for HCPCS code G0102 (Prostate cancer screening; digital rectal examination) together with 99215 (Office or other outpatient visit).

How Do You Identify All PTP Code Pairs When a Code is Not Reimbursable or When It is Only Reimbursable If An Appropriate Modifier is Used?

In other words, you will also wish to know when a code appears as a Column 2 code.

Unlike the Column 1 search, now you must download all of the Practitioner PTP Edits tables and search for Column 2 codes in all. (Similarly, other providers would need to download and search both of the hospital tables.) Use the Microsoft Excel filter tool so all instances of a particular code are displayed together in Column 2. (The Filtering the PTP Data Tables section at the end of this booklet provides instructions for using the filter tool in Microsoft Excel.)

For example, code 99215 appears in Column 2 of both Practitioner PTP Edits tables.

If you perform a Microsoft Excel filter for 99215 in Column 2 of the Practitioner PTP Edits Table containing edits from 0001M/36591 - 25931/G0471 (or similar range), you will see that 99215 is not reimbursed with 01462, Anesthesia for all closed procedures on lower leg, ankle, and foot.

If you perform a filter for 99215 in Column 2 of the Practitioner PTP Edits Table containing edits from 61000/0213T - R0075/R0070 (or similar range), you will see that 99215 is not reimbursed with 99221, Initial hospital care, unless an appropriate modifier is used.



How Do You Know When An Appropriate Modifier May Be Used?

In the modifier indicator column, the indicator 0, 1, or 9 shows whether an PTP-associated modifier allows the PTP code pair to bypass the edit. The following Modifier Identifier Table provides a definition of each of these indicators.

Table 1. Modifier Indicators

Modification Indicator	Definition
0 (Not Allowed)	There are no modifiers associated with NCCI that are allowed to be used with this PTP code pair; there are no circumstances in which both procedures of the PTP code pair should be paid for the same beneficiary on the same day by the same provider.
1 (Allowed)	The modifiers associated with NCCI are allowed with this PTP code pair when appropriate.
9 (Not Applicable)	This indicator means that an NCCI edit does not apply to this PTP code pair. The edit for this PTP code pair was deleted retroactive to the implementation date.

Hospital PTP Edits: These PTP code pair tables operate the same as the practitioner PTP code pair tables; however, modifiers and coding pairs may differ from the practitioner PTP code pair tables because of differences between facility and professional services.

Now that you've learned how to use the PTP code pair tables, let's learn how to search for MUEs.

Looking Up Medically Unlikely Edits (MUEs)

An MUE for a HCPCS/CPT code is the maximum Units of Service (UOS) that a provider would report under most circumstances for a single beneficiary on a single date of service.

MUEs are developed based on HCPCS/CPT code descriptors, CPT coding instructions, anatomic considerations, established CMS policies, nature of service/procedure, nature of analyte, nature of equipment, prescribing information, and clinical judgment.



Helpful Hint

Most MUEs are visible to providers on the webpage. However, some MUEs are considered confidential by CMS and are not released. The public/confidential status of MUEs may change.

All claims submitted to MACs and Durable Medical Equipment (DME) MACs, and outpatient facility services claims (Type of Bill 13X, 14X, 85X) are tested against MUEs. Since MUEs are coding edits, rather than medical necessity edits, claims processing contractors may have UOS edits that are more restrictive than MUEs. In such cases, the more restrictive claims processing contractor edit would be applied to the claim.

Similarly, if the MUE is more restrictive than a claims processing contractor edit, the more restrictive MUE would apply. Providers should continue to only report services that are medically reasonable and necessary. Providers may be subject to medical review of their claims even if they report UOS less than or equal to the MUE value for a code.

To view the tables of MUEs, select Medically Unlikely Edits from the menu on the left side of the <u>National</u> <u>Correct Coding Initiative Edits</u> page on the CMS webpage. Scroll to the bottom of the page and select the link to the table you want to review. The table links appear under the Downloads section.

Figure 3 shows the MUE tables for Practitioner Services, Facility Outpatient Services, and DME Supplier Services in the Downloads section. Links to MUE tables for the previous quarter and the current quarter are available.

tional Correct Coding <	Medically Unlikely Edits
CI Policy Manual for Medicare	CMS National Correct Coding Initiative Program (NCCI) Medicare and Medicaid Program
CI Policy Manual Archive	Medically Unlikely Edits (MUEs) are used by the Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs), including Durable Medical Equipme
respondence Language Manual	(DME) MACs, to reduce the improper payment rate for Part B claims. An MUE for a HCPCS/CPT code is the maximum units of
hive	service that a provider would report under most circumstances for a single beneficiary on a single date of service. Not all
dically Unlikely Edits	HCPCS/CPT codes have an MUE.
arterly PTP and MUE Version Update	This webpage has links to Frequently Asked Questions and Answers (FAQs), public Medicare MUE files, and the Publication
inges	Announcement Letter, which explain most aspects of the MUE program.
Coding Edits	Although CMS publishes most MUE values on its website, other MUE values are confidential and are for CMS and CMS contracto
	use only. Confidential MUE values are not releasable. The public/confidential status of MUEs may change over time.
I-on Code Edits	leavisies about the MUE assessment including these soluted to MCCI (PTD MUE and Add On) adds, should be east to
CLEAQS	Inquiries about the MUE program, including those related to NCCI (PTP, MUE and Add-On) edits, should be sent to NCCIPTPMUE@cms.hhs.gov. Inquiries about a specific claim should be addressed to the appropriate MAC.
	If a national healthcare organization, provider, or other party wants to submit a request for reconsideration of an MUE value, the procedure described in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) should be followed. See the web link in the navigation pane on th left stide of this page. Such requests should be addressed to: National Correct Coding Initiative Email: <u>NCCIPTPMUE@cms hhs gov</u> P.O. Box 368 Pittsboro, IN 46167 Fax #: 317-571-1745
	Downloads
	DME Supplier Services MUE Table - Effective-01-01-2021-Posted December 1, 2020 (ZIP)
	Practitioner Services MUE Table - Effective-10-01-2020- posted September 1, 2020 (ZIP)
	Facility Outpatient Hospital Services MUE Table - Effective-10-01-2020- Posted September 1, 2020 (ZIP)
	Facility Outpatient Hospital Services MUE Table - Effective-01-01-2021-Posted December 1, 2020 (ZIP)
	Practitioner Services MUE Table - Effective-01-01-2021-Posted December 1, 2020 (ZIP)
	DME Supplier Services MUE Table - Effective-01-01-2021 Replacement-Posted December 14, 2020 (ZIP)

Figure 3: Selecting MUE Provider Type



N In

Helpful Hint

Remember that MUE tables are updated quarterly and saved tables must be replaced to have the most current information.

Select Accept to agree to the AMA terms and conditions. The MUE tables are in compressed zipped files. You must choose whether to open and view the file or to save the file for future reference. The tables can be opened/viewed as either a plain text file, or a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet.

Figure 4 shows a section of the Practitioner Services MUE table after selecting the Microsoft Excel format.

	А	В	С	D
	Cur	rent Procedural	Terminology (CPT) codes, descriptions a	nd other data only are copyright 2018
			American Medical Association. All ri	ghts reserved.
		CPT	is a registered trademark of the America	n Medical Association.
		0.	plicable FARS\DFARS Restrictions Apply	to Covernment Use
		A	plicable I ARSIDI ARS Restrictions Apply	to dovernment ose.
	Fee sch	edules, relative	value units, conversion factors and/or rel	ated components are not assigned by the
	AMA.	are not part of	CPT, and the AMA is not recommending t	their use. The AMA does not directly or
	1		edicine or dispense medical services. The	
1			c 3 for not contained h	
	HCPCS	Practitioner	3	4
	CPT	Services MU	E	
2	Code	Values	MUE Adjudication Indicator	MUE Rationale
3	00010	1	2 Date of Service Edit: Policy	Code Descriptor / CPT Instruction
4	0002M	1	3 Date of Service Edit: Clinical	Nature of Analyte
5	0002U	1	2 Date of Service Edit: Policy	Code Descriptor / CPT Instruction
6	0003M	1	3 Date of Service Edit: Clinical	Nature of Analyte
7	0003U	1	2 Date of Service Edit: Policy	Code Descriptor / CPT Instruction
8	0004M	1	2 Date of Service Edit: Policy	Code Descriptor / CPT Instruction
9	0005U	1	3 Date of Service Edit: Clinical	Nature of Service/Procedure
10	0006M	1	2 Date of Service Edit: Policy	Nature of Analyte
11	0006U	1	2 Date of Service Edit: Policy	Code Descriptor / CPT Instruction
12	0007M	1	2 Date of Service Edit: Policy	Nature of Analyte
13	0007U	1	2 Date of Service Edit: Policy	Code Descriptor / CPT Instruction
14	0008U	1	3 Date of Service Edit: Clinical	Nature of Analyte
15	0009M	1	2 Date of Service Edit: Policy	Code Descriptor / CPT Instruction
16	0009U	2	3 Date of Service Edit: Clinical	Nature of Analyte
17	0010U	2	1 Line Edit	Nature of Service/Procedure
18	0011M	1	2 Date of Service Edit: Policy	Code Descriptor / CPT Instruction
19	00110	1	2 Date of Service Edit: Policy	Code Descriptor / CPT Instruction
20	0012M	1	2 Date of Service Edit: Policy	Code Descriptor / CPT Instruction
21	00120	1	2 Date of Service Edit: Policy	Code Descriptor / CPT Instruction
22	0013M	1	2 Date of Service Edit: Policy	Code Descriptor / CPT Instruction
23	0013U	1	3 Date of Service Edit: Clinical	Nature of Analyte
24	0014U	1	1 Line Edit	Nature of Analyte
25	0016U	1	3 Date of Service Edit: Clinical	Nature of Analyte
26	00170	1	3 Date of Service Edit: Clinical	Nature of Analyte
27	0018U	1	1 Line Edit	Nature of Analyte
28	0019U	1	3 Date of Service Edit: Clinical	Nature of Analyte
29	0021U	1	2 Date of Service Edit: Policy	Code Descriptor / CPT Instruction
30	0022U	2	3 Date of Service Edit: Clinical	Clinical: CMS Workgroup
31	0023U	1	2 Date of Service Edit: Policy	Code Descriptor / CPT Instruction
32	0024U	1	2 Date of Service Edit: Policy	Nature of Analyte
33	0025U	1	2 Date of Service Edit: Policy	Nature of Analyte
24	002611		3 Date of Service Edit: Clinical	Nature of Analyte

Figure 4: Practitioner Services MUE Table



1 The first column entitled HCPCS/CPT Code contains codes with an MUE value.

2 The second column entitled Practitioner Services MUE Values represents the maximum UOS that a practitioner would report under most circumstances for a single beneficiary on a single date of service.

The third column entitled MUE Adjudication Indicator (MAI) describes the type of MUE. MAI 1 indicates a value applied at the line level. MAI 2 indicates a value that was determined based on absolute criteria, such as anatomic considerations, an intrinsic definition of the code, or published CMS policy. MAI 3 indicates a value that is unlikely to appear on a correctly coded claim but could, in unusual circumstances, be payable. <u>MM8853</u> contains additional information on MAIs. **NOTE:** MAIs are not coding modifiers.

4 The fourth column entitled MUE Rationale provides the underlying basis for each MUE.

Helpful Hint

Unlike the PTP code pair tables, the MUE tables do not have a column that addresses modifiers. Review Chapter 1 of the NCCI Policy Manual for Medicare for information about modifiers and MUEs.

Using the NCCI Policy Manual for Medicare

The <u>NCCI Policy Manual for Medicare</u> is available as a reference tool for correct coding and to explain the rationale for NCCI edits. Each chapter corresponds to a separate section of the CPT Manual, except Chapter 1, which contains general correct coding policies; Chapter 12, which addresses HCPCS Level 2 codes; and Chapter 13, which addresses Category III CPT codes. Each chapter is subdivided by subject to allow easier access to a particular code or group of codes.

Neither the introduction nor the narrative portion of any chapter is intended to supersede any current Medicare policy.

The Introduction and Chapter 1 of the manual are excellent resources for basic information about proper coding practices and how coding edit decisions are made. Chapter 1, which is entitled General Correct Coding Policies, addresses general coding principles, issues, and policies. Many of these principles, issues, and policies are addressed further in subsequent chapters dealing with specific groups of HCPCS/CPT codes. Examples are used to clarify principles, issues, or policies. The examples do not represent the only codes to which the principles, issues, or policies apply.



3

It is also highly recommended that you carefully review the chapters of the manual that pertain to the code ranges you most often bill. These chapters include detailed information about correct coding and using NCCI-associated modifiers for separately reportable services, and much more.

The NCCI Policy Manual is using the link in the left navigation menu on the National Correct Coding Initiative Edits webpage on the CMS webpage.

Filtering the PTP Data Tables

The fastest and most accurate way to search any of the edit tables for a particular value is by using the Excel Filter feature.

Note: The instructions about how to use the Filter tool were written for Excel 2010. If you have an earlier version of Excel or another spreadsheet program, the Filter function might work differently. Please use the Help feature of your program if you need assistance.

In the figures below, our example uses the Filter to search for instances of CPT code 99215 in Column 2 of the Practitioner PTP Edits Table 1. These instructions also can be used to filter Column 1 codes in any of the four PTP code pair tables.

Open the file in Excel format (.xlsx). Figure 5 shows how to begin filtering by selecting on the column heading entitled Column 2 and then choosing Data and Filter.

File A From Acces	From From s Web Text	rom Other Sources + ranal Data	ing ctions Refresth All → Edit Links Connections	Acrobat				ii Show Detail ii Hide Detail Fa		
	А	В	С	D	E	F	G	Н	I	J
3	Column 🗲	Column 😪 *	* = In existence prior to 1996∵	Effective Date	Deletion Date ₂ *=no data ∵	Modifier 0=not allowed 1=allowed 9=not applicable	PTP Edit R	ationale 🕞		
4	0001M	36591		20151001	*	0	CPT Manu	al or CMS manual co	ding instruc	tions
5	0001M	36592		20151001	*	0	CPT Manu	al or CMS manual co	ding instruc	tions
6	0001T	0002T		20030101	20040331	1	Mutually e	exclusive procedures		

Figure 5: Filter Feature Selected

Excel displays a drop down arrow on each column header.

Select on the drop-down arrow in Column 2. Excel will automatically select all values in the column. Select on the check box next to Select All to remove this default. Scroll down to the desired value.



Figure 6 shows Column 2 selected and a sort for 99215 chosen by clicking on the box beside this code. Next, click on OK.

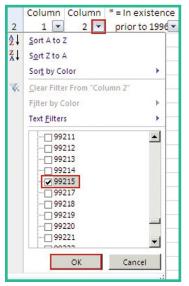


Figure 6: Removing Select All default setting

Figure 7 shows a sample of occurrences of 99215 in Column 2 of the Practitioner PTP Edits Table 1.

			Colum1/Colu	1112 2013	Modifier			
Column 1 🔽	Column 2 ず	* = In existence prior to 1996 🔻	Effective Date 🔻	Deletion Date	0=not allowed 1=allowed 9=not applicable	PTP Edit Rationale	v	
00100	99215		19960101		0	Standard preparation /	monitoring service	es for anesthes
00102	99215		19960101		0	Standard preparation /		
00103	99215		19960101		0	Standard preparation /		
00104	99215		19960101		0	Standard preparation /		
00120	99215		19960101		0	Standard preparation /		
00124	99215		19960101		0	Standard preparation /		
00126	99215		19960101		0	Standard preparation /		
00140	99215		19960101		0	Standard preparation /		
00142	99215		19960101		0	Standard preparation /		
00144	99215		19960101		0	Standard preparation /		
00145	99215		19960101		0	Standard preparation /		
00147	99215		19960101		0	Standard preparation /		
00148	99215		19960101		0	Standard preparation /	monitoring service	ces for anesthes
00160	99215		19960101		0	Standard preparation /		
00162	99215		19960101		0	Standard preparation /		
00164	99215		19960101		0	Standard preparation /	monitoring servi	ces for anesthes
00170	99215	-	19960101		0	Standard preparation /	monitoring servi	ces for anesthes
00172	99215		19960101		0	Standard preparation /	monitoring service	ces for anesthes
00174	99215		19960101		0	Standard preparation /	monitoring servi	ces for anesthes
00176	99215		19960101		0	Standard preparation /	monitoring service	ces for anesthes
00190	99215	-	19960101		0	Standard preparation /	monitoring service	ces for anesthes
00192	99215	,	19960101		0	Standard preparation /	monitoring service	ces for anesthes
00210	99215		19960101		0	Standard preparation /	monitoring service	ces for anesthes
00211	99215	-	20090101		0	Standard preparation /	monitoring service	ces for anesthes
00212	99215	r	19960101		0	Standard preparation /	monitoring service	ces for anesthes
00214	99215		19960101		0	Standard preparation /		

Figure 7: Results of filter for CPT code 99215 in Column 2

When you are done looking at the records filtered by the desired value, select on the filter symbol in the column you filtered, and select Clear Filter from Column 2 as shown in Figure 8. You must return to viewing ALL records before you can filter for a different value. When you are done looking for records, you can remove the Filter by selecting Data and Filter.



	Column Column * = In existence	Effective
2	1 💌 2 🖓 prior to 199 💌	Date 💌
₽↓	Sort A to Z	20060101
Z↓	Sort Z to A	20060101
AT		20080101
	Sort by Color	20060101
X	Clear Filter From "Column 2"	20060101
	Filter by Color	20060101

Figure 8: Removing the filter

Helpful Hint

When Excel prepares the list of values in each column, Excel automatically lists the values in ascending alphanumeric order. Therefore, when you scroll through the list, if the value you are looking for doesn't appear in the position on the list where it should fall alpha-numerically, the value is NOT on the file.

Need More Information?

The NCCI contractor is able to address questions and concerns about NCCI edits and the program in general. Inquiries about the NCCI program, including those related to NCCI (PTP, MUE and Add-On Code) edits, should be sent to the following email address: <u>NCCIPTPMUE@cms.hhs.gov</u>.

However, because NCCI edits are implemented by the MACs as part of routine claim processing, claimspecific inquiries must be made to the <u>MAC</u>. This includes appeals of NCCI-related claim denials.

Resources

- Add-on Code Edits
- <u>CMS HCPCS- General Information</u>
- <u>CMS Help with File Formats and Plug-Ins</u>
- <u>CMS Outpatient Code Editor (OCE)</u>
- <u>CMS Quarterly Provider Updates Electronic Mailing List</u>
- <u>CMS Questions</u>
- Federal Register, Medicare Program; Reporting and Returning of Overpayments
- Internet-Only Manual (IOM) Pub 100-04, Medicare Claims Processing Manual
- <u>MLN Matters® Articles</u>
- <u>MLN Publications</u>
- MLN SE1418 Proper Use of Modifier 59



- <u>MM8853 Revised Modification to the Medically Unlikely Edit (MUE) Program</u>
- <u>National Correct Coding Initiative Edits</u>
- <u>NCCI FAQs</u>
- <u>NCCI Policy Manual for Medicare</u>
- Quarterly PTP and MUE Version Update Changes
- The National Correct Coding Initiative in Medicaid

Medicare Learning Network® Content Disclaimer, Product Disclaimer, and Department of Health & Human Services Disclosure

The Medicare Learning Network®, MLN Connects®, and MLN Matters® are registered trademarks of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS).

