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Compliance Hotline

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 and click on Hotline. EVMS Health Services Compliance concerns may also be sent to the EVMS Health Services Compliance Office via phone, mail or e-mail.

Contact Us

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Effective January 1, 2010 CMS Eliminates Payment for Consultation Codes

Citing continuing misuse, CMS has eliminated payment for consultation codes (99241-99245 and 99251-99255). Physicians must now submit charges for these services using office visit codes (99201-99215) or initial visit codes for the first visit to inpatient (99221-99223) or nursing facility (99304-99306) patients. In order for the change to be budget neutral, CMS has increased the work relative value units (RVUs) for new and established office visits and initial hospital and nursing facility visits.

When using the initial care codes admitting physicians must now append modifier **AI** to the initial care code to identify themselves as the "principal physician of record" and distinguish the admitting physician from other physicians providing specialty care. The initial care codes require documentation of the three key components at the levels below.

	99221 99304	99222 99305	99223 99306
History	<i>Detailed or Comprehensive</i>	<i>Comprehensive</i>	<i>Comprehensive</i>
Exam	<i>Detailed or Comprehensive</i>	<i>Comprehensive</i>	<i>Comprehensive</i>
Medical Decision Making	<i>Straightforward or Low Complexity</i>	<i>Moderate Complexity</i>	<i>High Complexity</i>

Transmittal 1875 addressing these changes was released December 15, 2009 and may be found at:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R1875CP.pdf>

Transmittal 1875 also contains revisions and additions to the following sections of the Medicare Claims Processing Manual:

- Selection of Level of Evaluation/Management Service;
- Payment for Hospital Observation Services;
- Payment for Initial Hospital Care Services;
- Emergency Department Visits;
- Nursing Facility Services and
- Prolonged Services.

CMS has published a MLN Matters article with additional information about the consultation changes. This article may be found at:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6740.pdf>

At this time other carriers have not eliminated payment for consultation codes. The consultation section in CPT has been revised for 2010 and contains additional guidance on the use of the consultation codes when submitting charges to these carriers.

Compliance Discussion Group for January 2010

Topic: Indigent Patients

Dates and Locations:

Tuesday, January 19, Hofheimer Hall 753
Thursday, January 21, Hofheimer Hall 755

Time: Noon – 1:00 pm

RSVP by email or phone to Leanne Smith (451-6207).

Bring your lunch. Snack & drinks will be provided.
