



Healthcare Provider Taxonomy Codes (HPTCs) October 2019 Code set Update

MLN Matters Number: MM11418

Related Change Request (CR) Number: 11418

Related CR Release Date: August 23, 2019

Effective Date: January 1, 2020

Related CR Transmittal Number: R4371CP

Implementation Date: January 6, 2020 –
MACs with capability to do so should implement
effective October 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.

PROVIDER ACTION NEEDED

CR 11418 advises the 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. Please make sure your billing staffs are aware of these changes.

BACKGROUND

The National Uniform Claim Committee (NUCC) maintains the HPTC codes set for standardized classification of health care providers. The NUCC updates the code set twice per year with changes effective April 1 and October 1. The HPTC list is available for review or download from the NUCC website 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

Note: When reviewing the HPTC code set online, revisions made since the last release are identified.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requires covered entities to comply with 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.

Please Note:

- 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 three 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, CR 11418, issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/2019Downloads/R4371CP.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
August 23, 2019	Initial article released.

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