



Hospice Claims Edits for Certifying Physicians

Related CR Release Date: September 13, 2024	MLN Matters Number: MM13531 Revised
Effective Date: June 3, 2024	Related Change Request (CR) Number: CR 13531
Implementation Date: October 7, 2024, for all BRs except 13531.3, 13531.3.1, and 13531.4; November 18, 2024, for remaining BRs	Related CR Transmittal Number: R12847CP

Related CR Title: Additional Implementation Edits on Hospice Claims for Hospice Certifying Physician Medicare Enrollment

What's Changed: We added an exception to the edit logic for when a nurse practitioner or physician assistant is serving as an attending. We also revised the CR implementation date, CR release date, transmittal number, and CR link. Substantive content changes are in dark red.

Affected Providers

- Hospices
- Physicians and other providers billing Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for hospice services they provide to Medicare patients

Action Needed

Make sure your billing staff knows about these updates effective June 3, 2024:

- We pay for hospice services if certifying physicians, including hospice physicians and hospice attending physicians, are enrolled in or opted-out of Medicare
- We subject the hospice attending and certifying physicians to ordering and referring denial edits **except if the designated attending is a nurse practitioner (NP) or a physician assistant (PA)**
- **Updates to Sections 20 and 30 in the Medicare Claims Processing Manual, [Chapter 11](#)**

Background

We're making sure certifying physicians, including hospice physicians and hospice attending physicians, are enrolled in or opted-out of Medicare before paying for their hospice services. This requirement is in the FY 2024 Hospice Payment Rate Update [Final Rule](#).

We'll deny hospice claims if the certifying physician, including hospice physician and hospice attending physician, isn't on our PECOS hospice ordering and referring files. This addresses hospice program integrity and quality of care per Section 6405 of the [Affordable Care Act](#).

We're implementing these changes on October 7, 2024, **unless noted in CR 13531**. For claims you submit on or after October 7, 2024, with dates of service as of June 3, 2024, or later, we'll check the REF PHYS NPI field and the ATT PHYS NPI field on hospice claims to make sure the certifying physicians, including hospice physicians and hospice attending physicians, are enrolled in or opted-out of Medicare. We'll subject both physicians, if different, to the ordering and referring denial edits for the initial certification period. **If an NP or a PA is serving as the designated attending, we will only subject the certifying physician in the REF PHYS NPI field to the ordering and referring denial edits.**

If the certifying or recertifying physician and the attending physician are the same individual, we apply the edits only to the "Attending" field.

For subsequent certifications, if both physicians are listed, we'll check the REF PHYS NPI field for the certifying physician. You should enter the attending physician in the ATT PHYS NPI field and the certifying physician in the REF PHYS NPI field. If the patient doesn't have an attending physician, you should report the hospice certifying or recertifying physician in the ATT PHYS NPI field.

CR 13531 also makes the following changes for claims reporting to Section 20.1.1 of the Medicare Claims Processing Manual, [Chapter 11](#):

- **Attending Physician I.D.** – The hospice enters the name and provider identifier of the attending physician designated by the patient at the time of election as having the most significant role in the determination and delivery of the patient's medical care. The patient's designated attending physician could be an independent physician, a hospice physician, an NP, or a PA. If there is no attending physician listed, then the hospice shall report the hospice certifying or recertifying physician.
- **Other Physician I.D.** – A hospice enters the name and NPI of the hospice physician responsible for certifying or recertifying that the patient is terminally ill, with a life expectancy of 6 months or less if the disease runs its normal course. For electronic claims, this information is reported in Loop ID 2310F – Referring Provider Name. You should complete both the attending physician and other physician fields unless the patient's designated attending physician is the same as the physician certifying or recertifying the terminal illness. When the attending physician is also the physician certifying or recertifying the terminal illness, then you should only populate the attending physician field; the other physician field isn't required.

More Information

We issued [CR 13531](#) to your MAC as the official instruction for this change. For more information, find your [MAC's website](#).

Document History

Date of Change	Description
September 19, 2024	We added an exception to the edit logic for when a nurse practitioner or physician assistant is serving as an attending. We also revised the CR implementation date, CR release date, transmittal number, and CR link.
May 14, 2024	We revised the effective date and the web address of CR 13531. We also added coding information for the referring provider name on page 2.
April 18, 2024	Initial article released.

View the [Medicare Learning Network® Content 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)

