

TO: ALL PROVIDERS

FROM: CAREFIRST OF MARYLAND INC., MEDICARE PART A

DATE: OCTOBER 4, 2004

SUBJECT: GUIDELINES FOR BILLING EVALUATION/MANAGEMENT SERVICES IN THE HOSPITAL OUTPATIENT SETTING

The purpose of this bulletin is to clarify proper billing of HCPCS codes used for outpatient Evaluation/Management (E/M) services. CareFirst of MD Inc., Medicare Part A Fiscal Intermediary has an active medical policy parameter in place to review E/M services billed with units greater than one. Medical review denials are primarily due to failure to support separate and distinct visits on the same date of service. Report condition code G0 when **distinct and independent visits** on the same day in the same revenue center occur (e.g., seen in Emergency Room twice in one day).

We recently completed data analysis of the use of HCPCS 99201-99215 and HCPCS 99281-99285 (revenue codes 450/451/452/510). Coding irregularities were identified with multiple providers resulting in a significant error rate. Appropriate coding of E/M services involves the assessment of all services provided during that visit. In an effort to arrive at the correct level of service, the most common practice is to **report a single visit code** per day, assessing all E/M services provided to arrive at the correct level of service. Visits with more than one health professional and multiple visits with the same health professional that take place during the same session and at a single location within the hospital constitute a single visit (CMS Pub 100-4, 25-§60,FL46).

Our overall goal is to ensure proper billing practices so that claims will be submitted and paid correctly.

Any questions should be addressed to your Provider Representative at 1-866-488-0545. Medical Review will closely monitor submission of these codes for correct format.

THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE SHARED WITH ALL HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS AND MANAGERIAL MEMBERS OF THE PROVIDER/SUPPLIER STAFF. BULLETINS ISSUED AFTER OCTOBER 1, 1999 ARE AVAILABLE FROM OUR WEBSITE AT www.marylandmedicare.com