

## **CMS Releases Data Used to Identify Billing Errors on Medicare Claims**

Providers now have access to data that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services uses to automatically detect certain billing errors that result in overpayments.

CMS began Oct. 1 publishing on its Web site most system edits in the Medically Unlikely Edit (MUE) program, according to a news release from the agency.

The MUE program was launched in January 2007 to reduce billing errors, but until now most edits were not publicly released because they were considered confidential.

Because the MUE program also detects questionable payments that could be linked to fraud or abuse, CMS said in the release that some of the 9,700 MUE program edits would not be published.

The MUE program--previously called the Medically Unbelievable Edits program--was designed to detect improbable claims, such as for procedures that could not have been performed on a particular patient (hysterectomies on men, for example) or for units of service that exceeded the likely amounts or could not have been correct under the clinical circumstances (milliliters of a product only sold in liters, for example).

System edits, such as those used in the MUE program, are automated processes that detect billing errors. The MUE edits are linked to billing codes used on Medicare claims. The program has grown from edits for about 2,600 billing codes to edits for about 9,700.

At the beginning of each calendar quarter, CMS will publish most MUEs active for that quarter, according to the release. CMS said most MUEs would be available Oct. 1 and that additional edits would be added Jan. 1, 2009.

Click here for more information on the MUEs including FAQs:

[http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalCorrectCodInitEd/08\\_MUE.asp#TopOfPage](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalCorrectCodInitEd/08_MUE.asp#TopOfPage).

To access recent and past state health policy reports go to the State Health Policy section on the Chapter Leadership Network (CLN) website or click on:

[http://www.acponline.org/cln/health\\_policy.htm](http://www.acponline.org/cln/health_policy.htm).

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