



TO: Physicians, APRNs, and Clinics
RE: NCCI Edit

Effective January 1, 2013 the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) introduced a National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) edit that does not permit payment of both a preventive medicine procedure code and a vaccine administration code on the same day of service. Connecticut, along with other states, has been unable to persuade CMS and its contractor, Correct Coding Solutions (CCS), that these edits are inappropriate. Their position is that providers must bill with modifier 25 (Significant, separately identifiable E/M service by the same physician...) on the second detail in order to bypass the edit whenever a preventive medicine code and vaccine administration code are billed on the same date of service. While the Department of Social Services (DSS) questions whether this is an appropriate use of modifier 25, CMS and CCS advised us that this is the correct approach.

DSS will continue to impress on CMS the need to reverse these edits. In the meantime, providers should use modifier 25 on the second detail (and third detail if necessary) when billing for a preventive medicine code and vaccine administration code on the same date of service in order to bypass the NCCI edit.

