

Legacy Transitions to MAC

Protests have been filed against five Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACS) in 2009. These protests are holding up MAC transitions in 14 states for 2010.

Ten of 15 MAC contracts have been awarded and implemented. CMS is working to complete the issues on the five remaining jurisdictions. The contract awards for these are still

pending completion.

The jurisdiction still operating under old legacy carriers are:

- Jurisdiction 6 (**Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin**), which was awarded to the contractor Noridian. Currently this is administered by

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CPT 99211

Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC)

CPT 99211

CPT 99211 is an office visit or other outpatient visit for the evaluation and management of an established patient, which may not require the presence of a physician. Usually the presenting problem(s) are minimal. Typically, 5 minutes are spent performing or supervising these services.

In order to bill for this service, the nurse must evaluate or manage (meeting medical necessity) something. If the physician has already determined that the patient requires a test, the nurse is not evaluating anything even if the nurse restates the reason the doctor ordered the blood test or other test(s) scheduled for that day. ■

Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC)

The Recovery Audit Contractor program continues across all 50 states now. Protect your organization in the event of an audit by taking time to understand some of the issues currently identified by the RACs.

A sample of issues approved for RAC review:

- Blood transfusion coding
- Clinical social worker (CSW) services
- Un-timed codes (example: 31256 nasal endoscopy (no time) vs 76000 fluor 1 hr.
- New patient status for E/M code billing
- Global vs. -TC/-PC modifier

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WPS. CMS has not provided a date for when the transition will be complete

- Jurisdiction 7 (Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi) was awarded to TrailBlazer. This transition is expected to be completed by March, 2010.
- Jurisdiction 8 (**Indiana & Michigan**) was awarded to National Government Services (NGS). No date has been provided by CMS for when this transition will be complete.

- Jurisdiction 11 (North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia & West Virginia) awarded to Palmetto. No transition date was provided.
- Jurisdiction 15 (Kentucky & Ohio) awarded to Highmark Medical Services. No transition date was provided.

It will be advisable to prepare for the transition by becoming familiar with the new carriers determinations and signing up for the contractor's listserv. For example, TrailBlazer has unique medical decision making (MDM) requirements. ■



Nuclear Cardiology Procedures

2010 CPT	Code Description	Replaced 2009 Codes
78451	Myocardial perfusion imaging, tomographic SPECT, single study, at rest or stress (exercise or pharmacologic)	78464 78478 78480
78452	MPI multiple imaging, at rest and/or stress and redistribution and/or rest reinjection	78465 78478 78480
78453	MPI, planar single study at rest or stress	78460
78454	MPI, planar multiple studies, at rest and/or stress and redistribution and/or rest reinjection	78461