

Overview of CMS MEDICALLY UNLIKELY EDITS (MUE)



Q What is a Medically Unlikely Edit? ¹

A A MUE is the maximum units of service (UOS) that a provider would report under most circumstances for a single beneficiary on a single date of service. MUEs can either be claim line edits or date of service edits based on the MUE adjudication indicator (MAI) assigned to each HCPCS code.

Q Why did CMS develop MUEs? ²

A The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) implemented the Medically Unlikely Edit (MUE) program on January 1, 2007 to promote national correct coding methodologies and to control improper coding leading to inappropriate payment in Part B claims.

Q How does a MUE affect claims processing? ³

A Processing of a claim with units of service (UOS) in excess of a MUE is based on the MUE adjudication indicator (MAI) assigned to the HCPCS code. Typically if a claim is submitted by a Health Care Provider in excess of a MUE value for a particular HCPCS code will be denied.

Q Can a claim that was denied due to an MUE be appealed? ⁴

A Units of service (UOS) denied due to a MUE, whether a claim line MUE or date of serve MUE, may be appealed with the local Medicare contractor. If providers submit documentation of medical necessity to their local Medicare carrier, contractors may pay UOS in excess of the MUE value if the contractor determines that they are medically reasonable and necessary.

Q How often does CMS update MUEs? ⁵

A The National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) procedure (PTP) edits and Medically Unlikely Edits (MUEs) are generally updated on a quarterly basis.

References

1. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. <https://questions.cms.gov/faq.php?id=5005&faqId=2273> Accessed February 5, 2018
2. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. MLN Matters, Number MM8853. <https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/MM8853.pdf> Accessed February 5, 2018
3. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. <https://questions.cms.gov/faq.php?id=5005&faqId=11344> Accessed February 5, 2018
4. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. <https://questions.cms.gov/faq.php?id=5005&faqId=11354> Accessed February 5, 2018
5. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. <https://questions.cms.gov/faq.php?id=5005&faqId=11240> Accessed February 5, 2018

More Information About MEDICALLY UNLIKELY EDITS (MUE)



CMS.gov provides updated MUE tables each quarter as well as FAQs. HERE IS HOW TO FIND THEM:

QUARTERLY MUE TABLE

CMS.gov

Medicare

“National Correct Coding Initiative Edits”
under Coding

Medically
Unlikely Edits

MUE FAQs

CMS.gov

Medicare

“National Correct Coding Initiative Edits”
under Coding

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