



PROVIDER ALERT

Behavioral Health Consultation Services

Change Request (CR) 4215 revises the Medicare Claims Processing Manual with policy clarifications and identifies the new 2006 coding changes made by the American Medical Association (AMA) Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) for physicians and non-physician practitioners. Physicians and qualified non-physician practitioners need these new codes for reporting follow up visits to a consultation service beginning January 1, 2006.

As a result, Western Behavioral Health has made coding changes in regards to behavioral health consultations which have gone into effect July 1, 2006. The changes are outlined below.

Initial Consult (in a Hospital or Nursing Facility)

- There have not been any changes to the initial consultation codes 99251-99255. Please continue to use these codes as you have been. The initial codes can be used in either a hospital setting or nursing facility.

Follow Up Consultations

Hospital

- Based on the new CPT 2006 coding changes, follow up visits to a consultation service will be reported with the CPT Subsequent Hospital Care codes 99231-99233 **in the hospital setting**.
- Beginning January 1, 2006, the AMA CPT codes 99261-99263 (hospital inpatient follow up consultations) are deleted and not valid for follow up consultations in a hospital setting.

Nursing Facility

- Based on the new CPT 2006 coding changes, follow up visits to a consultation service will be reported with the new CPT Subsequent Nursing Facility (NF) Care Codes 99307-99310 **in the NF setting**.
- Beginning January 1, 2006, the AMA CPT NF codes 99311-99313 are deleted and not valid for subsequent nursing facility visits.

Important Links (for additional information):

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedlearnMattersArticles/downloads/MM4215.pdf>

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R788CP.pdf>

If you have any further questions, please contact Western Behavioral Health at 1-888-252-2224.