

Hardship Exception Applications to Avoid the 2015 Medicare Payment Adjustment Due November 30, 2014

CMS reopened the submission period for hardship exception applications for eligible professionals and eligible hospitals to avoid the [2015 Medicare payment adjustments](#) for not demonstrating meaningful use of Certified Electronic Health Record Technology (CEHRT). The deadline is **11:59 PM EST November 30, 2014**.

Eligible professionals and eligible hospitals that have never met meaningful use before may apply during this reopened [hardship exception application](#) submission period if they meet both of the following:

- The provider was unable to attest by July 1, 2014 (for eligible hospitals) or October 1, 2014 (for eligible professionals); **AND**
- The provider has been unable to fully implement 2014 Edition CEHRT by the dates above due to delays in 2014 Edition CEHRT availability.

These are the only circumstances that will be considered for this reopened hardship exception application submission period.

Applications Details

Providers who would like to submit an application should review the following guidance:

- The application is available on the [Payment Adjustments and Hardship Exceptions webpage](#).
- The completed application must be attached to an email and sent to ehrhardsip@provider-resources.com.
- For eligible professionals without Internet connectivity, submit this application and all supporting documentation via fax to 814-464-0147.
- Submit the application no later than 11:59 PM EST November 30, 2014.

More Information

Visit the [Payment Adjustments and Hardship Exceptions webpage](#) for more information about Medicare EHR Incentive Program payment adjustments.

Attention Northern Michigan! BCBSM 101 Training classes available for new professional billing staff and those looking for a refresher

BCBSM's new professional billing classes are coming to Grayling on December 2nd. Are you new to professional office billing within the last two years? Do you need a refresher course on BCBSM policies and procedures? Then the BCBSM 101 training is for you!

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan is bringing their class for new professional office and billing staff who have been in the field for less than two years and those of you looking for a refresher course. This training opportunity will take place at the Ramada Inn in Grayling. To accommodate the expected demand, BCBSM is having two half-day sessions (covering the same material at each). **The classes will provide information on the basics of working with BCBSM, self-help tools such as web-DENIS and PARS, Medicare Advantage, BlueCard® and other important aspects of working with Blue Cross/BCN.**

Here's an overview of the format:

- Half-day a.m. classes start at 9 a.m. and end at 12 noon, with registration at 8:30 a.m.

- Half-day p.m. classes start at 1 p.m. and end at 4 p.m., with registration at 12:30 p.m.
- Classes might extend later or end earlier depending on the number of participant questions.

To register, send an email to Jeff Holzhausen at jholzhausen@bcbsm.com. In the subject line, write "Grayling New Billing Staff" and the session you wish to attend the class (AM or PM). For example, you'd write "Grayling New Billing Staff PM" in the subject line. Please include the number and names of attendees expected from your office. You will receive a confirmation within 72 hours of registering. It's important that you register so we can have an accurate headcount.

Here are the details of the location:

Location: Grayling - Ramada Inn

Address: 2650 1-75 Business Loop, Grayling 49738

Date: Tuesday, December 2, 2014

Complete Coding Updates for 2015

3 AAPC CEU Credits

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

December 2 - Somerset Inn, Troy

December 3 - MSMS Headquarters, East Lansing

December 3 - Webcast teleconference

Which ICD-9 and CPT codes affect your practice? Which affect your reimbursement? Are there any Medicare comments on the new codes? What other Medicare updated information is available before the next New Year? Come and learn the most up-to-date information on new CPT codes to be used January 1, 2015, and information about the ICD-9 codes that you should have been using for the past months. Speaker Jill Young, CPC, CEDC, CIMC, will provide an overview of all of the 2015 changes to:

- ICD-9
- ICD-10
- CPT
- HCPCS

Who should attend: Office managers, billing managers, coders, billers, and physicians.

Fees: MSMS Members & member staff - \$135, Non-members - \$185

[Registration >>](#)

ICD-10 - Are you Prepared?

3 AAPC CEU Credits

1:00 - 4:00 pm

December 2 - Somerset Inn, Troy

This class begins with an introduction to and some history of the ICD-10-CM system. Guidelines for ICD-10-CM are then reviewed with comparisons to current CD-9-CM guidelines. General coding examples are scattered throughout the class along with specialty specific ones to give the attendee hands on coding of ICD-10 and to allow them to experience how they will be coding in ICD-10-CM. Tips and tools will be discussed to make both the transition easier but how to come through the end of 2014 without financial problems. The class is completed with information of where your practice should be at this time and steps to help achieve identified goals the rest of the way to the implementation date.

Who should attend: Coders, billers, office managers, billing managers, and physicians.

Fees: MSMS Members & member staff - \$135; Non-members - \$185

[Registration >>](#)

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