

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

In other news

Although HIPAA enforcement of 5010 compliance was deferred until March 31, CMS is still expecting you to begin using the standard as soon as possible--and to make that easier, the agency has clarified one formerly confusing issue.

Previously, CMS indicated that if you used a code that had "not otherwise classified" in a description, your claim would be rejected. However, a Jan. 13 revision fixes that error, and MLN Matters article SE1138 now notes that using "not otherwise classified" will not lead you to instant rejection.

Instead, the MLN Matters article notes, if you use a code described by "not otherwise classified" or "unlisted," you must list "a corresponding description of that procedure." If you don't, your claim will not be considered HIPAA-compliant.

For more on this issue, visit www.cms.gov/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/SE1138.pdf.