

## Eli's Rehab Report

### You Be the Coder: From Hospital to Nursing Facility

**Question:** Can we bill a hospital-discharge code on the same day as a nursing-facility admission?

Seattle Subscriber

**Answer:** Yes. CPT 2000 states that hospital-discharge or observation-discharge services can be reported on the same date as a nursing-facility admission. Patients discharged from observation status on the same date of nursing-facility admission or readmission should be billed using [CPT 99217](#) (observation care discharge). Patients who are both admitted and discharged from observation or inpatient status on the same date should be billed using codes 99234-99236.

What you cant bill for is a nursing-facility visit (99311-99313) on the same day as a hospital admission (99221-99223). Section 15505 of the Medicare Carriers Manual states, Payment for the hospital admission includes all work performed by the physician in all sites of service on that date.

Editors note: **Brenda Messick, CPC**, senior consultant at Gates, Moore & Co., a physician practice management firm in Atlanta, and **Patricia Niccoli, HBMA**, president of ElectroAge Billing, a medical billing firm in Phoenix, provided advice to answer You Be the Coder.