

## Home Health Coding and OASIS Expert

### Edits: CMS Ups the Ante on Manifestation Coding

New coding-focused edit took effect Jan. 1.

Make certain you've mastered manifestation diagnosis coding requirements or your agency could pay the price.

**Reminder:** On Jan. 1, a new Medicare claims edit kicked in that returns claims if they list a manifestation code as primary. The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** set the Jan. 1 date in a transmittal issued last August.

"An analysis of Outcome Assessment and Information Set (OASIS) records and claims for CY 2011 revealed that some agencies were not complying with the coding guidelines when reporting the primary diagnosis, in particular with regards to certain codes that require the underlying condition be sequenced first followed by the manifestation," CMS said in Change Request 8813. "Given the concerns regarding compliance with coding guidelines, CMS is adopting edits to ensure greater compliance of coding guidelines for primary diagnosis codes."

**Do this:** "The principal diagnosis reported on the home health claim should be the ICD-9-CM code that is most related to the current home health plan of care," CMS directs in a MLN Matters article linked to the CR. "HHAs should not submit manifestation codes as the primary diagnosis."

See the MLN Matters article at

[www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM8813.pdf](http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM8813.pdf).

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