

National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI)

Practitioner,* Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC), and Outpatient Hospital Services

Procedure to Procedure Edits

The Affordable Care Act of 2010 requires that States incorporate NCCI edits and methodologies for claims filed on or after April 1, 2011 for dates of service on or after October 1, 2010. Effective for claims processed on the remittance date of June 21, 2011, Louisiana Medicaid is applying the mandatory procedure to procedure editing methodologies that are components of the NCCI editing. These will apply to practitioner,* ASC, and Outpatient Hospital services.

Procedure to procedure edits are defined as pairs of HCPCS/CPT codes that should not be reported together. These NCCI edits are applied to services performed by the same provider for the same recipient on the same date of service. When appropriate, modifiers may be applied to further describe the clinical scenario. Louisiana Medicaid's claims processing system has been updated to accept all NCCI-associated modifiers. Providers may **NOT** bill recipients for services denied by NCCI edits.

Providers could expect to see denials on procedures that may have previously paid when billed in the same manner. For NCCI edits, the decision on which procedure code of a code pair is payable was determined by CMS. CMS updates these edits quarterly. New edit messages that pertain specifically to the NCCI edits have been added. Currently these are:

731-'CCI: Procedure incidental to another current procedure.'

759-'CCI: Procedure incidental to a procedure in history.'

982-'CCI: History procedure incidental to current-history voided.'

984-'CCI: Procedure mutually exclusive to another current procedure.'

989-'CCI: Procedure mutually exclusive to procedure in history.'

992-'CCI: History procedure mutually exclusive to current-history voided.'

The NCCI methodologies for the medically unlikely edits (MUE) for units of service will be implemented at a future date. These edits will also include durable medical equipment suppliers' claims.

For additional information, please refer to prior NCCI notices on www.lamedicaid.com dated March 15, 2011 and September 23, 2010. Providers are also encouraged to access information on the CMS website at www.cms.gov under the Medicaid NCCI link.

(*Practitioners include those licensed medical professionals who submit claims to Medicaid using HCPCS/CPT codes.)