

TC³ Overview

The CMS developed the National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI or CCI) to promote national correct coding methodologies and to control improper coding leading to inappropriate claims payment. The CMS developed its coding policies based on coding conventions defined in the AMA's CPT manual, national and local policies and edits, coding guidelines developed by national societies, analysis of standard medical and surgical practices, and a review of current coding practices. The National Correct Coding Initiative Policy Manual and Edits were developed for application to services billed by a single provider or facility for a single patient on the same date of service.

Florida BCBS Website:

DESCRIPTION:

Effective October 23, 2008, all Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) edits will be incorporated into Florida Blue's code editing system.

CMS developed the NCCI to promote national correct coding methodologies and to control improper coding leading to inappropriate payment for Medicare Part B claims. CMS developed its coding policies based on coding conventions defined in the American Medical Association's CPT manual, national and local policies and edits, coding guidelines developed by national societies, analysis of standard medical and surgical practices, and a review of current coding practices. CMS NCCI edits are a recognized industry source for relationships between codes.

Alabama BCBS Website

National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI)

Effective October 1, 2010

History

In 1994, the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) awarded a contract to AdminaStar Federal, the Indiana Medicare carrier, to define correct coding practices that would serve as the basis for national Medicare. Based on their review of physicians' "Current Procedural Terminology" (CPT) code descriptors, CPT coding instructions, review of existing and national coding edits and review of billing history, two main concepts were developed: (1) comprehensive and component code combinations; and (2) mutually exclusive coding combinations that represent services or procedures that would not or could not be performed at the same time based on the CPT code description or standard medical practice. Coding combinations that fell into these two groups were distributed to many physician specialty societies as well as Medicare carrier medical directors for review and comment. Based on the responses, the coding combinations were revised. Some of the CPT code combinations were removed and moved into a standard methodology that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) adopted and implemented in 1996 to promote national correct coding methodologies and to control improper coding.

NCCI Methodology

NCCI edits are now a nationally recognized and widely used standard for editing claims for accurate coding and reporting of services. Coding policies are based on the coding

conventions defined in the American Medical Association's CPT Manual, national and local Medicare policies and edits, coding guidelines developed by national societies, standard medical and surgical practices, and coding practices.