

Quick Points



October 13, 2010

Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) billing

According to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Final Notice for SNF Part A, CMS will be processing SNF Part A claims using the RUG IV grouper starting on October 1, 2010. In the meantime, CMS is continuing to develop the RUG III hybrid grouper that was mandated by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). Once the RUG III hybrid grouper is complete, CMS will implement that grouper retroactive to October 1, 2010. They will also retroactively adjust any claims for this time period.

SNFs should bill Blue Plus the same as they would Medicare. Blue Plus is planning that the next release of our CMS pricing software will be in production in time to pay the 2011 RUG IV grouper rates for claims with dates of service October 1, 2010 and later. This release is scheduled for early October. If our CMS pricing software release is not in production when we get the October 1, 2010 claims, Blue Plus will continue to pay based on the RUG III rates. If a claim cannot be priced with the RUG III grouper, then the RUG IV grouper will be downloaded from CMS and Blue Plus will manually adjudicate those claims. Once the RUG III hybrid grouper is released by our CMS pricing software and it is in production, Blue Plus will identify and retroactively adjust all claims with dates of service after October 1, 2010 to the RUG III hybrid grouper rates. All SNFs should be using the MDS 3.0 assessment from October 1, 2010 forward, and both RUG III and RUG IV can accommodate this.

Questions

If you have questions, please contact provider services at **(651) 662-5200** or toll free at **1-800-262-0820**.