



Weekly Auditing and Compliance Tip



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Outpatient Physical Therapy Changes Effective June 13, 2017

Our friends in clinics operating in Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA), a Medically Underserved Area (MUA), or in a rural area have long struggled with how to cover Physical Therapy services when a therapist is on leave, vacation, or in event of medical leave. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has now made this coverage easier for those who meet the qualification of HPSA, MUA, or RHC by allowing these services to be billed under reciprocal billing guidelines.

As a reminder, Reciprocal Billing (RB), a provision allowed by Section 1842(b)(6)(D) of the Social Security Act (the Act) has historically allowed payment to be made to a physician for physician's services furnished by a another physician to patients of the first physician when the first physician is unavailable due to leave, vacation, deployment, or otherwise. The services are furnished through an arrangement between to the two providers which may allow payment to the other provider either in an informal manner or in a per diem or other fee-for-time compensation for such services.

RB is only allowed for a continuous period of no more than 60 days, however this new change provides a new allowance for the length of time RB may be used. The new guidance indicates that if the



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regular physician is called or ordered to active duty as a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces, RB may be used "throughout that entire period."

MACs will accept claims from Physical Therapists, who bill with Provider Specialty code 65, which are Physical Therapist in Private Practice, for RB arrangements under this new provision by submitting their services utilizing the Q5 modifier. However, if the Physical Therapist arrangement is based on fee-for-time compensation arrangements the claim should include the Q6 modifier. The MACs understand that currently the Q5 and Q6 Modifier Descriptors refer to physician use only, but they will accept claims from physical therapists that are reported with a Q5 or Q6. Also noted in this update is that formal changes to these modifiers are coming.

For complete details regarding these upcoming changes, here is a link to the full update provided by CMS: <https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM10090.pdf>

At NAMAS, we strive to provide training and education for medical auditors and compliance professionals- regardless of their specialty.

We're happy to announce that during our 9th Annual Auditing & Compliance Conference which will be held December 5-8, 2017 in Orlando, FL at the Loews Sapphire Falls Resort, **we will be offering an educational track specific to FQHC and Rural Health auditing.** This focused track will occur during our pre-conference event on Tuesday, December 5, 2017. [Click here to view our conference agenda](#) - we invite you to consider attending this one of a kind educational experience! Conference details are provided below in this week's tip.

This Week's Tip Written by:

Shannon O. DeConda, CPC, CPC-I, CEMC, CMSCS, CPMA Shannon is a Partner with our parent organization, DoctorsManagement and is also the President of NAMAS



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Our **Medical Auditing Bootcamp** will train you to become a medial auditor. Learn the principles of auditing, compliance regulations, and how to perform the daily duties of an auditor.

Our 2-day Medical Auditing Bootcamps are scheduled as follows:

June 21 & 22: Houston, TX
July 10 & 11: Jacksonville, FL
August 17 & 18: Asheville, NC
and more!

We also offer this bootcamp online as a 5 week Saturday course. Each class is 3 hours and 15 minutes in length. Our next online course begins July 8, 2017!

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Become a Certified Evaluation & Management Auditor at our 2-Day E&M Auditing BootCamp

Our **2- Day E&M Auditing Bootcamp** is an accelerated auditing training specific to E&M auditing. Learn about audit policies, get clarity on documentation guidelines, medical decision making, medical necessity and more. Plus, during this training program you will have the opportunity **earn our NEW CREDENTIAL - Certified Evaluation and Management Auditor (CEMA)!**

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scheduled as follows:

May 23 & 24: Albany, NY
June 13 & 14: Birmingham, AL
June 28 & 29: Austin, TX
July 11 & 12: Grand Rapids, MI
July 18 & 19: Seattle, WA
July 26 & 27: Nashville, TN
And more!

[Click Here to Learn More & View Our E&M Auditing BootCamp schedule](#)



Our **9th Annual Auditing & Compliance Conference** will be held this December at the **Loews Sapphire Falls Resort at Universal Orlando**

[Click here to view the conference agenda](#)

Conference Pricing

Available **ONLY** through **June 30, 2017**

NAMAS Member Pricing

Conference Only: \$1095

Pre-Conference & Conference: \$1295

Non-Member Pricing

Conference Only: \$1195

Pre-Conference & Conference: \$1495

NEW FOR 2017: CONFERENCE VIP PACKAGE

Don't miss your chance to add on the Conference VIP Experience to your conference registration!
There are only 100 VIP packages available!

As a NAMAS Conference VIP, You'll Receive:

- A **VIP Registration line** for faster check-in
- A **VIP-branded name badge** to wear during conference sessions and events
- **Admission to our VIP only event** - occurring on the evening of Thursday, December 7th
- Admission to our **EXCLUSIVE VIP Only Evidence Based Management session with brunch** - occurring the morning of Wednesday, December 6 before the start of general session
- **BONUS NAMAS swag**
- **\$500 in NAMAS Bucks!** Use accumulated NAMAS Bucks to bid on a variety of silent auction items in our exhibit hall
- A **book of printed handouts for ALL**

Weekly Tip Sponsor



The Association for Rural Health Professional Coding (ARHPC) provides education, training and resources for coders and auditors in a Rural Health, School Based Health, and Federally Qualified Health Center settings.

[Click the image above to learn more about ARHPC.](#)

Membership Benefit Spotlight

Here, each week we will highlight one of the many benefits of a NAMAS membership

Ask the Auditor



Do you have a coding or auditing question you need clarification on? Through our members only portal, NAMAS members can submit their questions to the NAMAS team of experienced auditors for a response.

NAMAS Calendar of Events

NAMAS conference sessions. Don't worry about downloading and printing handouts before you arrive - your book of handouts will await you at check-in!

Add on the VIP Package to your conference registration for only \$129 now through June 30th. VIP package rates will increase after June 30, 2017 while supplies last!

Attendees **MUST** be registered for both pre-conference and conference to add on the VIP package. VIP packages will be issued on a first come, first served basis. Only 100 VIP packages are available

Secure your spot at this year's conference and lock in your early bird registration rate with just a \$50 deposit using the link below!



Click the image above to view our monthly calendar



NAMAS is proud to offer the following webinar in May

Hands On: Auditing Office Based E&M Services

Speaker: Shannon DeConda
May 23, 2017
2pm EST

This webinar is **FREE** For NAMAS Platinum members. This webinar is also available for purchase for \$49.99

Click here to purchase



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