

## ***National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) Edits***

*“Our long-term goal is to make **billing the Health Authority** as transparent as possible for our providers - meaning that you should be able to **code and bill the same way**, regardless of the patient’s health insurance coverage.”*



The Health Authority is in the final preparation to implement NCCI edits as part of the claim adjudication logic for reimbursement. These edits will be applied towards physician billings and represent a significant step for the Health Authority in adopting and applying national adjudication standards. Our long-term goal is to make billing the Health Authority as transparent as possible for our providers --- meaning that you should be able to code and bill the same way, regardless of the patient’s health insurance coverage. Currently, the Health Authority has certain coding and billing requirements which are unique solely to our health plan and therefore, this causes providers the burden of changing their normal billing practices solely if the member is covered by the Health Authority.

The Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS) developed the NCCI edits in 1998 to promote national correct coding methodologies based on logical and predictable coding principles. The edits developed are based on coding conventions defined in the American Medical Association’s (AMA) Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) Manual, national and local policies and edits, coding guidelines developed by national medical societies, analysis of standard medical and surgical practice, and review of current coding practice. CMS updates these edits quarterly. The NCCI edits are utilized by most health plans nationwide, and the Health Authority is on track to implement these edits on January 1, 2006, to be applied to claims with service dates on or after January 1, 2006. Providers can find more information, including detail on the actual NCCI edits, through the Internet by accessing the CMS website at [www.cms.hhs.gov](http://www.cms.hhs.gov). In the near future, you will also be able to access information on the NCCI edits through the Health Authority website.