



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Office of Medicaid
www.mass.gov/masshealth



**MassHealth
Physician Bulletin 91
July 2011**

TO: Physicians Participating in MassHealth
FROM: Terence G. Dougherty, Medicaid Director
RE: Anesthesia Services and 5010 Requirements

Background

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has mandated that, effective January 1, 2012, the standards for electronic health care transactions must change from version 4010/4010A1 to version 5010. MassHealth is actively working toward this January 1, 2012, implementation date. (See [MassHealth All Provider Bulletin 210](#).)

In addition to other 5010 changes, this mandate requires that anesthesia services, billed with service codes that do not have a specific time period defined in the description of the code, must be reported using minutes. This information was previously reported as 15-minute units under the 4010 version of the transactions. However, 5010 mandates that reporting units for these anesthesia services be reported in one minute units.

System Requirements

Anesthesia providers should confirm that their systems have the ability to provide only minutes for anesthesia time-based units, for service codes that do not have a time period in the description. If their systems do not have the capability to report only minutes for those service codes, they must update their systems immediately in order to support these mandated changes by January 1, 2012. Providers who use a software vendor or billing intermediary should confer with their vendor to confirm that they have the ability to support this change.

Determining Payable Anesthesia Time

Payable anesthesia time starts when the anesthesiologist begins to prepare the patient for the induction of anesthesia in the operating room, or equivalent area. Payable anesthesia time ends when the patient may be safely placed under postoperative supervision.

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Reporting Time Units

A provider's claim must report only payable time units/minutes. It must not include base anesthesia units/minutes or units/minutes that exceed the criteria described above, in the number of units/minutes field on the claim. Time units are measured in minutes. One unit equals one minute.

Effective Date

This change is effective for dates of service on or after January 1, 2012.

Questions

If you have any questions about the information in this bulletin, please contact MassHealth Customer Service at 1-800-841-2900, e-mail your inquiry to providersupport@mahealth.net, or fax your inquiry to 617-988-8974.
