COMPLIANCE UPDATE

TO:          Posted to Compliance Website
FROM:        Maryann C. Palmeter, CPC, CPCO, CPMA, CENTC, CHC, AAPC Fellow
             Director, Office of Physician Billing Compliance
SUBJECT:     Medicare Payment for Telehealth for Individuals with Acute Stroke
DATE:        December 11, 2018

A special rule will go into effect for telehealth services furnished on or after January 1, 2019, for the purpose of diagnosis, evaluation, or treatment of symptoms of an acute stroke.

This special rule removes the restrictions on the originating site geographic locations (i.e., rural health professional shortage area or counties not included in a Metropolitan Statistical Area) and the types of originating sites where acute stroke telehealth services can be furnished.

Acute stroke telehealth services can be furnished in any hospital, critical access hospital, mobile stroke units, or any other approved site, in addition to the current eligible telehealth originating sites. The current approved originating sites are:

- office of a physician or practitioner;
- hospital (inpatient or outpatient);
- critical access hospital;
- rural health clinic;
- federally qualified health center;
- hospital-based or critical access hospital-based renal dialysis center (including satellites);
- skilled nursing facility; and
- community mental health center

Effective for claims with dates of service on and after January 1, 2019, report Modifier “G0” (G-zero) when submitting charges for telehealth services furnished for purposes of diagnosis, evaluation, or treatment of symptoms of an acute stroke. Modifier G0 is valid for all:
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- Telehealth distant site codes billed with Place of Service (POS) code 02; or
- Telehealth originating site facility fee, billed with HCPCS code Q3014.

Payment of an originating site facility fee for acute stroke telehealth services is limited to services furnished under the usual (prior to January 1, 2019) telehealth geographic restrictions.

Approved telehealth services are still limited to those on the Medicare telehealth list which can be accessed via the Compliance website by clicking on the following link:


cc: Leon J. Haley, Jr., M.D., MHSA
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