

## Highlights of the Medicare Part B Regulatory Changes for 2020

*CMS has made many changes to the Medicare Part B regulations which will go into effect on January 1, 2020.*

### Medicare Part B:

- For CY 2020, the KX modifier threshold amounts are as follows: \$2,080 for physical therapy and speech-language pathology services combined and \$2,080 for occupational therapy services.
- The Medical Review (MR) threshold amount is \$3,000 for physical therapy and speech-language pathology services combined and \$3,000 for occupational therapy services.
- **Physical therapy assistant and occupational therapy assistant modifiers:**
  - The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (BBA) directed the Secretary of HHS to create modifiers signifying services were provided by a PTA or OTA, and also required that services provided “in whole or in part” by a therapist assistant would be reimbursed at 85% of the Fee Schedule rate beginning in 2022.
  - In the CY 2019 Final Rule, CMS established 2 modifiers to identify services provided by a PTA or OTA to comply with requirements of the BBA of 2018. The new modifiers are payment modifiers and are to be applied in addition to the GP and GO modifiers indicating services are provided as part of a PT or OT plan of care (e.g., 97110GPCQ or 97535GOCO).
    - CQ: Services provided in whole or in part by a PTA
    - CO: Services provided in whole or in part by an OTA
  - In the CY 2020 Final Rule, CMS revised the definition of “service” to mean the de minimis standard will be applied to untimed CPT/HCPCS codes and to each 15-minute unit of codes timed in 15-minute increments.
  - CMS also is revising its policy to allow separate reporting, on two different claim lines, of the number of 15-minute units of a code to which the modifiers do not apply and the number of 15-minute units of a code to which the modifiers do apply.
- **Assistant Modifier Application in CASAMBA:**
  - Casamba will calculate and place the Assistant Modifier automatically. No clinician intervention is required. This calculation will be run each time treatment is rendered.
  - Modifiers will be placed on patient specific documentation below:
    - Service Log
    - Patient Detail
    - Patient Detail with Cost
    - Daily Note with Grid
    - UBs
- Assistant Modifiers and Export Files:
  - Modifiers will also be added to Billing and Charge exports automatically. You do not need to contact Casamba to have your Billing and Charge exports enhanced. We are working with the SNF vendors to add the information according to their specifications. These will be ready for exports for dates of service 1/1/2020, forward.