



## 2020 Medicare Deductibles, Co-Insurance, and KX Modifier Thresholds

Effective January 1, 2020, the Medicare Part A co-insurance has increased to \$176/day for Skilled Nursing days 21-100, the Medicare Part B deductible has increased to \$198.00, and the KX modifier threshold has increased to \$2,080 for OT and \$2,080 for PT/SLP combined. Medicare is continuing with the Medical Review threshold for therapy provided over the KX modifier threshold. The new Medical Review threshold amount is \$3,000 for OT and \$3,000 for PT/SLP combined and will continue until FY 2028. Find more information about the new 2020 rates [here](#) and [here](#)...

## New Therapy Modifiers in Effect as of January 1, 2020

CMS has added two new modifiers required on therapy billing beginning January 1, 2020 to identify when physical therapy or occupational therapy has been furnished in whole or in part by a physical therapy assistant or an occupational therapy assistant. The modifiers are defined as follows:

- **CQ Modifier:** Outpatient physical therapy services furnished in whole or in part by a physical therapy assistant
- **CO Modifier:** Outpatient occupational therapy services furnished in whole or in part by an occupational therapy assistant

Facilities should review their systems to ensure these modifiers are setup for your January 2020 therapy import. The modifiers are to be used on the claim line of the service alongside the respective GP or GO therapy modifier to identify the services furnished under a PT or OT plan of care. Beginning in FY 2022, these modifiers will trigger a reduction in payment rate for the therapy services furnished in full or in part by a therapy assistant. [Read more information here...](#)

## NCCI Edit Changes Effective January 1, 2020

Beginning January 1, 2020, CMS has made changes to the NCCI edits for two therapy codes:

- **97530:** Can no longer be billed on the same day as PT evaluation codes (97191-97163) or OT evaluation codes (97165-97167)
- **97150:** Can no longer be billed on the same day as PT evaluation codes (97191-97163) or OT evaluation codes (97165-97167)

It is imperative that your therapists are aware of this change in order to receive reimbursement for these therapy services and decrease denials by Medicare. The full 2020 NCCI edit list for Facility Outpatient codes [can be found here](#)...

## Pennsylvania Community HealthChoices (CHC) Phase III Began January 1, 2020

Phase III of the Pennsylvania CHC transition went into effect January 1, 2020, which affected all remaining counties in Pennsylvania. RKL's medical billing team has worked with providers during the Phase I and Phase II transitions and we are here to help. Contact [Stefanie Knaub](#), RKL Senior Living Services Partner, at 717-590-8648 for transition questions and support.

## PDPM is Here – We Want to Help You!

PDPM officially went into effect October 1, 2019. Providers who are experiencing any clinical or billing reimbursement issues related to PDPM are encouraged to contact RKL Senior Living Services Partners [Stephanie Kessler](#) or [Stefanie Knaub](#) for assistance.

*Questions about these updates? Need support to meet requirements?  
Contact [Stefanie Knaub](#), RKL Senior Living Services Partner, at 717.590.8648.*



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