

Dear Valued CHMB Client,

As most of you know the beginning of 2010 marks the end of billing for consultation codes to Medicare. Medicare has instructed as to what alternative codes can be used in place of the consult codes. So in order to prevent you from having to rethink how you do your coding or to check what insurance the patient has, CHMB can make the appropriate code-crosswalk changes for you. However, we need your permission to do so. **As always, your documentation should substantiate the use of the proposed codes.** The following, are example guidelines for cross-walking consult codes o the new alternative codes.

For your convenience, summarized below are two different crosswalk suggestions for in-patient consultation codes - one from MGMA and another from HBMA. There are also proposals for which codes to use for the outpatient consultations - the MGMA and HBMA have the same opinion on these. Please review and either choose by circling (or please handwrite on this form how you would prefer the consult codes to be cross-walked to the new alternative codes accepted by Medicare) which in-patient codes you would prefer to use and then **print on your Practice Letterhead**, sign, and date the form below. By signing below you agree to give CHMB permission to translate the consult codes to the appropriate alternative codes. See all attached guidelines for recommendations by Medicare and others.

MGMA In-Patient	HBMA in patient
99251 to 99221	99251 to 99221
99252 to 99221	99252 to 99222
99253 to 99221 or 99223	99253 to 99222 or 99223
99254 to 99222	99254 to 99223
99255 to 99223	99255 to 99223

Outpatient consult codes these can be billed as new patient visits if the patient has not been seen by any physician in your group (same tax id #) for any reason within the last 3 years. If the patient has been seen within the last 3 years, CHMB will bill with the established patient visit code: Both MGMA and HBMA suggested strategies are listed below.

New patient	Established patient
99241 to 99201	99241 to 99212
99242 to 99202	99242 to 99213
99243 to 99203	99243 to 99213 or 99214
99244 to 99204	99244 to 99214
99245 to 99205	99245 to 99215

Signature of Physician

Date

Print Name