Dear :

We are writing to you to request that your age edits related to the body mass index (BMI) codes be aligned with the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM) conventions. While most codes in ICD-10-CM do not place age restrictions either within the code descriptor itself or as an official convention, some do. In the case of the BMI codes, ages are part of the codes and therefore must be adhered to.

As a HIPAA covered entity, payers and medical providers are required to follow ICD guidelines as well as the codes. It states within the ICD-10-CM guidelines that “Adherence to these (ICD) guidelines when assigning ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes is required under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). The diagnosis codes (Tabular List and Alphabetic Index) have been adopted under HIPAA for all healthcare settings.” (Source: ICD-10-CM Code Guidelines, Introductory Section)

Therefore we urge you to update your age edits to align with the official ICD-10-CM tabular convention, which is as follows:

**Z68  Body mass index [BMI]**

Kilograms per meters squared

Note: BMI adult codes are for use for persons 21 years of age or older

BMI pediatric codes are for use for persons 2-20 years of age. These percentiles are based on the growth charts published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

That means that the following codes must have an age edit of 2-20 years

- **Z68.51**  Body mass index (BMI) pediatric, less than 5th percentile for age
- **Z68.52**  Body mass index (BMI) pediatric, 5th percentile to less than 85th percentile for age
- **Z68.53**  Body mass index (BMI) pediatric, 85th percentile to less than 95th percentile for age
- **Z68.54**  Body mass index (BMI) pediatric, greater than or equal to 95th percentile for age

Failure to comply with ICD-10-CM guidelines is in violation of HIPAA. We hope that you will update your system accordingly.

Thank you,