

## **THE ASH SPECIALIST PROGRAM INC & ASH ARE PURSUING THREE (3) PATHWAYS TO IMPROVE RECOGNITION AND REIMBURSEMENT FOR HYPERTENSION SPECIALISTS**

### **PATHWAY #1:**

- **SUBMIT APPLICATION FOR A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER TAXONOMY CODE REQUEST TO THE NATIONAL UNIFORM CLAIM COMMITTEE (NUCC)**
  - *The NUCC is a voluntary organization health care industry stakeholders representing providers, payers, designated standards maintenance organizations, public health organizations, and vendors. Additional information about the NUCC is available at: [www.nucc.org](http://www.nucc.org). [www.nucc.org](http://www.nucc.org)*
  - *Health Care Provider Taxonomy code set is maintained by the NUCC. The complete code set is available at: [www.wpc-edi.com/codes/taxonomy](http://www.wpc-edi.com/codes/taxonomy). A list of the modifications to the code set is available at: <http://www.wpc-edi.com/taxonomy/modified>.*
    - *The Health Care Provider Taxonomy code set is an external nonmedical data code set designed for use in an electronic environment, specifically within the ANSI ASC X12N health care transactions. This includes the transactions mandated under HIPAA.*
    - *The Health Care Provider Taxonomy code is a unique alphanumeric code, ten characters in length. The code set is structured into three distinct "Levels" including Provider Type, Classification, and Area of Specialization.*
    - *The NUCC Data Set is a compilation of each data element in the 837P and its relationship to the 1500 Claim Form Item Numbers. The NUCC Data Set was previously released in 2003. It has been revised to accommodate the changes related to the 08/05 version of the 1500 Claim Form.*
    - *Effective 2001, the National Uniform Claim Committee (NUCC) has administered and maintained the code set.*
      - *The code set is used in transactions specified in HIPAA and the National Provider Identifier (NPI) application for enumeration.*
      - *Ongoing duties, including processing taxonomy code requests and maintenance of the code set, fall under the NUCC Code Subcommittee. Washington Publishing Company (WPC), through its web site, is the primary distributor of the code set.*
  - *The NUCC provides semi-annual updates to the Health Care Code Set twice each year, in January and July*
  - *ASH will prepare and submit a Health Care Provider Taxonomy Request Form for Hypertension Specialists*

- *This pathway will result in a code that will be used by the AMA and private health care providers for purposes of surveillance, reimbursement by private insurers, and credentialing bodies*

***PATHWAY #2:***

***CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES (CMS)***

- *This code will be used by CMS to reimburse hypertension specialists for services rendered to patients covered by Medicare and Medicaid.*

***PATHWAY #3:***

***SEEK MODIFICATION OF ICD 9 CODES (International Classification of Disease)***

- *ICD 10 Codes have already been developed and will be fully implemented in 2013*
- *ASH will closely monitor these codes to determine if they can be modified to reflect patients with difficult-to-treat hypertension. These patients should be referred to hypertension specialists.*