



News Flash – The new publication titled End-Stage Renal Disease Prospective Payment System (September 2010) provides information about the Medicare End-Stage Renal Disease Prospective Payment System that will be implemented on January 1, 2011, including the one-time election and transition period, payment rates for adult and pediatric patients, home dialysis, laboratory services and drugs, and beneficiary deductible and coinsurance. This publication can be accessed at http://www.cms.gov/mlnproducts/downloads/End-Stage_Renal_Disease_Prospective_Payment_System_ICN905143.pdf on the CMS website.

MLN Matters® Number: MM7204

Related Change Request (CR) #: 7204

Related CR Release Date: October 29, 2010

Effective Date: January 1, 2011

Related CR Transmittal #: R2080CP

Implementation Date: January 3, 2011

Changes to the Laboratory National Coverage Determination (NCD) Edit Software for January 2011

Provider Types Affected

This article is for physicians, providers, and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare carriers, Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs), or Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs) for clinical diagnostic laboratory services provided for Medicare beneficiaries.

What You Need to Know

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 7204, which announces the changes that will be included in the January 2011 release of Medicare's edit module for clinical diagnostic laboratory National Coverage Determinations (NCDs). The last quarterly release of the edit module was issued in October 2010.

These changes become effective for services furnished on or after January 1, 2011. The changes that are effective for dates of service on and after January 1, 2011 are as follows:

For Thyroid Testing:

ICD-9-CM code 780.66 is added to the list of covered ICD-9-CM codes for the Thyroid Testing (190.22) NCD.

Disclaimer

This article was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This article may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents.

For Gamma Glutamyl Transferase:

ICD-9-CM code 780.66 is deleted from the list of covered ICD-9-CM codes for the Gamma Glutamyl Transferase (190.32) NCD

Please ensure that your billing staffs are aware of these changes.

Background

The NCDs for clinical diagnostic laboratory services were developed by the laboratory negotiated rulemaking committee and published in a final rule on November 23, 2001. Nationally uniform software was developed and incorporated in Medicare's systems so that laboratory claims subject to one of the 23 NCDs were processed uniformly throughout the nation effective July 1, 2003. In accordance with the Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 16, Section 120.2, available at <http://www.cms.gov/manuals/downloads/clm104c16.pdf> on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website, the laboratory edit module is updated quarterly (as necessary) to reflect ministerial coding updates and substantive changes to the NCDs developed through the NCD process.

Additional Information

The official instruction, CR 7204 issued to your carrier, FI or A/B MAC regarding this change may be viewed at <http://www.cms.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R2080CP.pdf> on the CMS website. If you have any questions, please contact your carrier, FI or A/B MAC at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website.

News Flash - Each Office Visit is an Opportunity. Medicare patients give many reasons for not getting their annual flu vaccination, but the fact is that there are 36,000 flu-related deaths in the United States each year, on average. More than 90% of these deaths occur in people 65 years of age and older. Please talk with your Medicare patients about the importance of getting their annual flu vaccination. This Medicare-covered preventive service will protect them for the entire flu season. And remember, vaccination is important for health care workers too, who may spread the flu to high risk patients. **Don't forget to immunize yourself and your staff. Protect your patients. Protect your family. Protect yourself. Get Your Flu Vaccine - Not the Flu.** Remember – Influenza vaccine plus its administration are covered Part B benefits. Note that influenza vaccine is NOT a Part D covered drug. For information about Medicare's coverage of the influenza vaccine and its administration, as well as related educational resources for health care professionals and their staff, please visit http://www.cms.gov/MLNProducts/Downloads/Flu_Products.pdf and <http://www.cms.gov/AdultImmunizations> on the CMS website.

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