



Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) Measures and Specifications

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is pleased to announce that the 2007 Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) Quality Measures and Specifications are now available. In addition to posting the 2007 PQRI Measures Specifications, CMS has also updated the list of 2007 PQRI measure statements and descriptions. To access both the measures and measure specifications documents, visit the PQRI web page at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI> on the CMS website. Once there, go to the Measures/Codes section of the page and scroll down to the Downloads section. Providers may want to test their systems to be certain that claims containing the codes associated with the measures will be processed. **Please note that many of the quality codes are new and will be rejected by Medicare claims processing systems prior to the July 1, 2007 HCPCS update.** CMS will be issuing further information about which measures may be used for testing systems prior to the July 1 start date.

MLN Matters Number: MM5530

Related Change Request (CR) #: 5530

Related CR Release Date: April 6, 2007

Effective Date: March 20, 2007

Related CR Transmittal #: R67NCD

Implementation Date: May 7, 2007

Blood Brain Barrier Osmotic Disruption for Treatment of Brain Tumors

Provider Types Affected

Physicians and providers submitting claims to Medicare contractors (Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs), Part Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) and carriers)

What Providers Need to Know

Effective for claims with dates of service on or after March 20, 2007, the use of osmotic blood brain barrier disruption is not considered reasonable and necessary when it is used as part of a treatment regimen for brain tumors in Medicare patients.

Background

This article and Change Request (CR) 5530 states that Medicare does not currently have a national coverage determination (NCD) for osmotic blood brain barrier disruption (BBBD) as part of a treatment regimen for brain tumors. The

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Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) accepted a formal request for **non-coverage** of BBBD used for this indication.

CMS determined that the use of osmotic blood brain barrier disruption is not reasonable and necessary when it is used as part of a treatment regimen for brain tumors.

Be aware that the BBBD process includes all items and services necessary to perform the procedure, including hospitalization, monitoring, and repeated imaging procedures.

This NCD does not alter in any manner the coverage of anti-cancer chemotherapy.

Additional Information

If you have questions, please contact your Medicare FI, carrier or MAC at their toll-free number which may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website.

CR5530 is the official instruction issued to your Medicare FI, Carrier or MAC. That instruction may be viewed by going to <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R67NCD.pdf> on the CMS website.

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