
Program Memorandum Intermediaries/Carriers

Department of Health &
Human Services (DHHS)
Centers for Medicare &
Medicaid Services (CMS)

Transmittal AB-03-104

Date: JULY 25, 2003

CHANGE REQUEST 2814

SUBJECT: Changes to the Laboratory National Coverage Determination (NCD) Edit Software for October 1, 2003

Purpose:

This Program Memorandum (PM) announces the changes that will be included in the October 2003 release of the edit module for clinical diagnostic laboratory services. The NCDs for clinical diagnostic laboratory services were developed by the laboratory negotiated rulemaking committee and published as a final rule on November 23, 2001. Nationally uniform software has been developed by Computer Sciences Corporation and incorporated in the shared systems so that laboratory claims subject to one of the 23 NCDs are processed uniformly throughout the nation effective January 1, 2003. The laboratory edit module for the NCDs will be updated quarterly as necessary to reflect ministerial coding updates and substantive changes to the NCD developed through the NCD process. This PM announces the changes for the October 2003 quarterly update.

Policy:

The following changes are made to the edit module effective for services furnished on or after October 1, 2003.

1. In accordance with the decision memorandum published on the coverage Internet site on July 17, 2003, (see <http://cms.hhs.gov/ncdr/memo.asp?id=94>), we are adding diagnosis code 401.1, benign essential hypertension, to the list of ICD-9-CM codes covered by Medicare for lipid testing. Hypertension may be viewed as a cause of atherosclerosis that requires tighter management when accompanied by dyslipidemia.
2. ICD-9-CM codes are updated annually. New ICD-9-CM codes can render some of the presently covered codes inappropriate. Most commonly, codes are expanded so that additional digits are necessary. For example, a code that presently is displayed as 4 digits may be expanded to require 5 digits. The coding changes below are considered ministerial in that we are merely replacing existing codes within the NCD with the more current code structure or adding new codes that are within an existing covered range. We are making the following specific changes to the NCDs and edit module. However, because we provide a 90-day grace period for new ICD-9-CM codes, we will not actually be removing the codes from the edit module until the January 2004 release.
 - In the serum iron studies NCD list of covered diagnoses, we are removing code 282.4 and replacing it with 282.41, 282.42, and 282.49. We are removing code V43.2 and replacing it with V43.21 and V43.22. We are also adding new ICD-9-CM diagnosis codes 282.64, 282.68, and 289.52.
 - In the urine culture bacterial NCD list of covered diagnoses, we are removing code 600.0 and replacing it with 600.00 and 600.01; removing code 600.1 and replacing it with 600.10 and 600.11; removing 600.2 and replacing it with 600.20 and 600.21; and removing 600.9 and replacing it with 600.90 and 600.91. We are also adding the following new codes: 780.93, 780.94, 785.52, and 788.63.

- In the human immunodeficiency virus testing (diagnosis) NCD list of covered diagnoses, we are removing ICD-9-CM diagnosis code 348.3 and replacing it with 348.30 and 348.39; and removing code 530.2 and replacing it with 530.20, 530.21, and 530.85. We are also adding new code 331.19.
- In the blood counts NCD list of ICD-9-CM codes that do not support medical necessity, we are removing code 600.0 and replacing it with 600.00 and 600.01; removing code 600.1 and replacing it with 600.10 and 600.11; removing 600.2 and replacing it with 600.20 and 600.21; and removing 600.9 and replacing it with 600.90 and 600.91. We are also removing code V04.8 and replacing it with V04.81, V04.82, and V04.89; removing V53.9 and replacing it with V53.90, V53.91 and V53.99; removing V54.0 and replacing it with V54.01, V54.02, and V54.09. In addition, we are adding the following new codes: 799.81, V25.03, V45.85, and V65.46.
- In the partial thromboplastin time NCD list of covered diagnoses, we are removing code 767.1 and replacing it with 767.11.
- In the prothrombin time NCD list of covered diagnoses, we are removing code 767.1 and replacing it with 767.11. We are also removing code V43.2 and replacing it with V43.21 and V43.22. In addition, we are adding new code 414.07.
- In the collagen cross-links NCD list of covered diagnoses, we are adding new code V58.65.
- In the blood glucose NCD list of covered diagnoses, we are removing code 790.2 and replacing it with 790.21, 790.22, and 790.29; and removing 348.3 and replacing it with 348.31. We are also adding new codes 414.07, V58.63, V58.64, and V58.65.
- In the glycated hemoglobin NCD list of covered diagnoses, we are removing code 790.2 and replacing it with 790.21, 790.22, and 790.29.
- In the thyroid testing NCD list of covered diagnoses, we are removing code 331.1 and replacing it with 331.11 and 331.19. We are also adding new codes 728.87, 780.93 and 780.94.
- In the lipid testing NCD list of covered diagnoses, we are adding codes 414.07, V58.63, and V58.64.
- In the prostate specific antigen NCD list of covered procedures, we are adding new code 788.63.
- In the gamma glutamyl transferase NCD list of covered diagnoses, we are adding new codes 282.64, 282.68, 289.52, V58.63, and V58.64.
- In the fecal occult blood NCD list of covered diagnoses, we are removing code 530.2 and replacing it with new codes 530.20, 530.21, and 530.85. We are also adding new codes V58.63, V58.64, and V58.65.
- In the list of ICD-9-CM codes denied that are applicable to all 23 NCDs, we are removing code V65.1 and replacing it with V65.11 and V65.19.

Provider Education

Contractors must inform affected provider communities by posting relevant portions of this instruction on their Web sites within 2 weeks of the issuance date on this instruction. In addition, this same information must be published in your next regularly scheduled bulletin. If you have a listserv that targets the affected provider communities, you must use it to notify subscribers that information about "Changes to the Laboratory National Coverage Determination (NCD) Edit Software" for October 1, 2003, is available on your Web site.

The *effective date* for this PM is for services furnished on or after October 1, 2003.

The *implementation date* for this PM is October 1, 2003.

These instructions should be implemented within your current operating budget.

This PM may be discarded after July 25, 2004.

If you have any questions, contact Jackie Sheridan-Moore at 410-786-4635.