The Medicare National Coverage Process is a nine (9) month process. For the initial six (6) months, the following phases often include the following in the order listed:

1. Preliminary Discussions
2. Benefit Category
3. National Coverage Request
4. Staff Review
5. External Technology Assessment
6. And / Or Medicare Coverage Advisory Committee
7. Staff Review
8. Draft Decision Memorandum
9. Posted

The final three (3) months of the Medicare National Coverage Process include a thirty (30) day Public Comments phase, followed by a sixty (60) day requirement to complete the Final Decision Memorandum and Implementation Instructions phase.

10. Public Comments
11. Final Decision Memorandum and Implementation Instructions

Upon completion of the Final Decision Memorandum and Implementation Instructions phase, two (2) further phases are possible: the Final Decision Memorandum and Implementation phase initiates an appeal or the Reconsideration phase will further initiate the Preliminary Discussions phase.

12. Final Decision Memorandum and Implementation Instructions
13. Department Appeals Board
14. Or
15. Final Decision Memorandum and Implementation Instructions
16. Reconsideration
17. Preliminary Discussions