



Joint Commission

on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations

Setting the Standard for Quality in Health Care

January 25, 2005

Steve Phurrough, MD, MPA
Director, Coverage Analysis Group
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Mailstop C1-09-06
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21244

Subject: NCD for Lung Volume Reduction Surgery

Dear Dr. Phurrough:

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations is pleased to inform you of a new certification program for facilities performing lung volume reduction surgery (LVRS).

The Joint Commission is writing at this time to request that CMS revise the LVRS National Coverage Determination (NCD) that was issued on January 1, 2004 to require that facilities be certified by the Joint Commission.

The Joint Commission LVRS certification program was developed in response to CMS's January 1, 2004 NCD that called for the development of an accreditation process and announced that when such a process became available, "LVRS would be considered reasonable and necessary only at accredited facilities." Organizations that wish to pursue Joint Commission certification for LVRS would be required to meet disease specific care standards, as well as specific requirements applicable to medical facilities performing LVRS. (The standards for LVRS certification are attached.) The LVRS-specific requirements were derived from criteria used in the National Emphysema Treatment Trial (NETT). In developing these standards, the Joint Commission assembled a task force composed of physicians representing the Society of Thoracic Chest Physicians, the American Society of Cardiologists, and other experts. To obtain public input, we posted the proposed LVRS requirements on the Joint Commission web site and

solicited comments directly from over 60,000 individuals enrolled on the Joint Commission list serve. In response, we incorporated the comments we received where appropriate.

If you have any questions, please contact Patricia Kurtz, of my Washington staff, at 202-783-6655 or PKurtz@JCAHO.org.

Sincerely,

Margaret VanAmringe, M.H.S.