



Inappropriate Denials of Claims for Percutaneous Transluminal Angioplasty (PTA) of Carotid Arteries Concurrent with Stenting Based on Facility Recertification Due Dates – JA6046

Related CR Release Date : June 6, 2008

Date Job Aid Revised: July 8, 2008

Effective Date: March 17, 2005

Implementation Date: July 7, 2008

Key Words	CR6046, MM6046, R3490TN, Percutaneous, Transluminal, Angioplasty, PTA, Carotid, Stent
Contractors Affected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicare Carriers • Fiscal intermediaries (FIs) • Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs)
Provider Types Affected	Physicians and hospitals who submit claims to Medicare Carriers, FIs and A/B MACs for PTA services provided to Medicare beneficiaries



Change Request (CR) 6046 reminds providers and Medicare contractors that certifying and recertifying facilities for Medicare payment is solely under the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) jurisdiction.

Provider Needs to Know...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In CR6046, CMS states that some contractors are misapplying the initial certification and recertification requirements contained in CR3811 and CR5660, respectively, thereby inappropriately denying claims when a facility is not immediately recertified at the end of a 2-year period. • When CMS certifies a facility, the facility name and effective date appear on a list of approved facilities located at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicareApprovedFacilitie/CASF/list.asp on the CMS website. • If CMS disapproves a facility at any time, that facility is placed on a separate list of formerly approved facilities indicating the time period during which the facility was certified (also accessible on the above-noted website).
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- Therefore, as long as a facility appears on the approved list, it is considered certified by CMS whether or not recertification is in pending status.
- Medicare contractors are expected to consult the two facility lists in determining certification status and they **should not deny claims based on any other certification factors such as erroneously applied expiration date edits.**
- All requirements contained in CR3811 and CR5660 remain in effect.

Background

- Effective March 17, 2005, CMS revised the National Coverage Determination (NCD) for PTA of the carotid artery concurrent with placement of a Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved carotid stent for certain beneficiaries at high risk for carotid endarterectomy.
- On April 22, 2005, CMS issued CR3811 to implement NCD 20.7, which included detailed steps facilities must follow to become certified by CMS to perform this procedure.
- On April 30, 2007, as a result of a request for reconsideration of NCD 20.7, CMS posted a final decision that the current coverage policy would remain unchanged.
- CR5660 was subsequently released on September 12, 2007, reiterating its decision.
- CR5660 also made clarifying revisions to NCD 20.7, which included additional, detailed recertification steps a facility must follow every 2 years in order to maintain Medicare coverage of carotid artery stenting procedures.

Operational Impact

Medicare contractors will adjust any claims brought to their attention that were incorrectly denied.

Reference Materials

The related MLN Matters article can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6046.pdf> on the CMS website.

The official instruction (CR6046) issued regarding this change may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R3490TN.pdf> on the CMS website.

Providers may want to review the following related articles:

- MM5660, which clarifies the NCD policy for PTA at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5660.pdf>
- MM3811, which outlines the initial NCD policy for PTA at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM3811.pdf>

- MM3489, which has additional information relating to Medicare coverage of PTA at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM3489.pdf>; and
 - MM5022, which provides clarification of the billing requirements for PTA Concurrent with the Placement of an FDA-approved Carotid Stent at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5022.pdf> on the CMS website.
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