



## Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) – JA6672

Related CR Release Date: October 16, 2009

Date Job Aid Revised: October 23, 2009

Effective Date: September 28, 2009

Implementation Date: January 4, 2010

**Key Words** MM6672, CR6672, R1831CP, R107NCD, MRI

**Contractors Affected**

- Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs)
- Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs)
- Medicare Carriers

**Provider Types Affected** Physicians and other providers who bill Medicare Carriers, FIs, or A/B MACs or provide MRI services to Medicare beneficiaries



- Effective September 28, 2009, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is removing blood flow measurement as a nationally non-covered indication for MRI and is giving local Medicare contractors the discretion to cover (or not to cover) this use of MRI in blood flow measurement.
- CMS has not found evidence that MRI improves health outcomes in beneficiaries who have an implanted cardioverter-defibrillator or cardiac pacemaker approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use in an MRI environment. Therefore, no changes are proposed.

---



---

### Revised MRI Procedures

- The following four Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes will be changed from “non-covered” to “covered” and will appear in the January 2010 Integrated Outpatient Code Editor Quarterly Updates:
  - 75558, Cardiac MRI for morphology/function w/o contrast materials; w/flow/velocity quantification;
  - 75560, Cardiac MRI for morphology/function w/o contrast materials; w/flow/velocity quantification & stress;
  - 75562, Cardiac MRI for morphology/function w/o contrast materials; followed by contrast materials/further sequences, w/flow/velocity quantification; and
  - 75564, Cardiac MRI for morphology/function w/o contrast materials; followed by contrast materials/further sequences, w/flow/velocity quantification & stress.

### Provider Needs to Know...

- All other MRI uses noted in the *National Coverage Determination (NCD) Manual* (Section 220.2) remain unchanged, including non-coverage of imaging of cortical bone and calcifications procedures involving spatial resolution of bone and calcifications for patients with FDA-approved (for an MRI environment), implanted cardioverter-defibrillators or cardiac pacemakers, or for patients with metallic clips on vascular aneurysms.

### Cardiac Pacemakers

- **CMS has not found** evidence that MRI improves health outcomes in beneficiaries who have an implanted cardioverter-defibrillator or cardiac pacemaker approved by the FDA for use in an MRI environment. In fact, CMS notes that there are currently no such devices.
- **Therefore, no changes are proposed as a result of this request and the current policy remains in effect.**

---



---

### Background

- Historically, the use of MRI for blood flow determination has been a Medicare “non-covered” procedure.
  - CMS received a request to delete the national non-coverage of blood flow measurement from the MRI NCD in Section 220.2 (Magnetic Resonance Imaging), Subsection C.2 (National Non-covered Indications) of the *Medicare National Coverage Determinations Manual* because of an apparent contradiction between this non-coverage provision and the national coverage of MRI under the Magnetic Resonance Angiography NCD in the manual’s Section 220.3 (Magnetic Resonance Angiography).
  - CMS also received a separate request to revise the reference to cardiac pacemakers to permit coverage for MRI when a beneficiary has an implanted device that has been designed, tested, and FDA-labeled for use in the MRI environment.
- 
-

---

---

**Operational  
Impact**

Medicare contractors will adjust any previously processed claims with dates of service of September 28, 2009, through December 31, 2009, that the provider brings to their attention.

---

---

---

---

**Reference  
Materials**

The related MLN Matters® article can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6672.pdf> on the CMS website.

The official instruction (CR6672) issued regarding this change may be viewed at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R107NCD.pdf> and <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1831CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

---

---