



Related MLN Matters Article #: MM3358

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Related CR #: 3358

### *Changes to the Laboratory National Coverage Determination (NCD) Edit Software for October 2004*

#### Key Words

MM3358, CR3358, R225CP, Clinical, Diagnostic, Laboratory, NCD

#### Provider Types Affected

Clinical Diagnostic Laboratories

#### Key Points

- The effective date for the instruction is October 1, 2004.
- The implementation date is October 4, 2004.
- The laboratory edit module for the NCDs is being updated quarterly as necessary to reflect ministerial coding updates and substantive changes to the NCDs developed through the NCD process.
- 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 Medicare's claims processing systems so that laboratory claims subject to one of the 23 NCDs are processed uniformly throughout the nation, effective January 1, 2003.
- Change Request (CR) 3358 describes upcoming changes to the list of codes associated with the 23 NCDs.
- Upcoming changes can be found on pages 2-3 of MLN Matters article MM3358.
- Most of the changes are a result of new International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) codes.
- Some changes are the result of coding analyses that were conducted through the public process announced in the December 24, 2003, Federal Register.
- Updated ICD-9-CM codes are published in the Federal Register in April/May of each year as part of the Proposed Changes to the Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems (Table 6) and effective each October 1.

- Physicians, practitioners, and suppliers must use the current and valid diagnosis code that is in effect beginning October 1, 2004.
- After the ICD-9-CM codes are published in the Federal Register, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) places the new, revised, and discontinued codes at [http://www.cms.hhs.gov/ICD9ProviderDiagnosticCodes/02\\_newrevisedcodes.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/ICD9ProviderDiagnosticCodes/02_newrevisedcodes.asp) on the CMS website.

### Important Links

The related MLN Matters article can be found at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM3358.pdf> on the CMS website.

The official instruction (CR3358) regarding this change may be viewed at

<http://www.cms.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R225CP.pdf> on the CMS website.