



Provider Inquiry Assistance

Screening Computed Tomography Colonography (CTC) for Colorectal Cancer – JA6578

Related CR Release Date: August 7, 2009

Date Job Aid Revised: September 8, 2009

Effective Date: May 12, 2009

Implementation Date: September 8, 2009

Key Words MM6578, CR6578, R105NCD, CTC, Colorectal, Cancer

Contractors Affected

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

Provider Types Affected

Physicians and providers submitting claims to Medicare Carriers, FIs, and/or A/B MACs for colorectal cancer screening services provided to Medicare beneficiaries



Change Request (CR) 6578 instructs that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has determined that current evidence is inadequate to conclude that CTC for colorectal cancer screening, also known as virtual colonoscopy, is an appropriate colorectal cancer screening test.

Provider Needs to Know...

- Following a thorough review of the evidence, meetings with medical professional organizations, and conducting a Medicare Evidence Development and Coverage Advisory Committee Meeting, CMS has determined that the current evidence is inadequate to conclude that CTC is an appropriate colorectal cancer screening test under Section 1861(pp)(1) of the Social Security Act (the Act).
- Therefore, effective May 12, 2009, CTC for colorectal cancer screening, also known as virtual colonoscopy, remains nationally non-covered by Medicare.

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- Background**
- Medicare covers colorectal cancer screening for average-risk individuals age 50 and older using:
 - Fecal occult blood testing,
 - Sigmoidoscopy,
 - Colonoscopy, and
 - Barium enema.
 - On March 5, 2008, the American Cancer Society, the United States Multi Society Task Force on Colorectal Cancer, and the American College of Radiology issued new cancer screening guidelines, including a recommendation that CTC be considered an acceptable option for colorectal cancer screening for such individuals.
 - CTC (also referred to as virtual colonoscopy) uses computed tomography to acquire images and advanced 2-dimensional (2D) or 3-dimensional (3D) image display techniques for interpretation.
 - Neither Medicare law nor regulations identify the CTC test as a possible coverage option under the colorectal cancer screening benefit.
 - However, under 42 Code of Federal Regulations 410.37(a)(1), CMS is allowed to use the National Coverage Determination process to determine coverage of other types of colorectal cancer screening tests that are not specifically identified in law or regulations as it determines to be appropriate, in consultation with appropriate organizations.
 - Providers may view this regulation at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/CFR/retrieve.html> on the Internet.
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Operational Impact Medicare contractors will continue to process claims for CTC for colorectal cancer screening without change.

Reference Materials The related MLN Matters® article can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6578.pdf> on the CMS website.

The official instruction (CR6578) regarding this change may be viewed at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R105NCD.pdf> on the CMS website.
