



Changes to the Laboratory National Coverage Determination (NCD) Edit Software for January 2019

MLN Matters Number: MM10941

Related Change Request (CR) Number: 10941

Related CR Release Date: September 28, 2018

Effective Date: January 1, 2019

Related CR Transmittal Number: R4139CP

Implementation Date: January 7, 2019

PROVIDER TYPE AFFECTED

This MLN Matters Article is intended for physicians, other providers, and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

PROVIDER ACTION NEEDED

This MLN Matters® Article is based on Change Request (CR) 10941 which informs MACs about the changes that will be included in the January 2019 quarterly release of the edit module for clinical diagnostic laboratory services. Make sure your billing staffs are aware of these changes.

BACKGROUND

CR 10941 announces the changes that will be included in the January 2019 quarterly release of the edit module for clinical diagnostic laboratory services. The National Coverage Determinations (NCDs) for clinical diagnostic laboratory services were developed by the laboratory negotiated rulemaking committee, and the final rule was published on November 23, 2001. Nationally uniform software was developed and incorporated in the Medicare shared systems so that laboratory claims subject to one of the 23 NCDs (Publication 100-03, Sections 190.12 - 190.34) were processed uniformly throughout the nation, effective April 1, 2003.

In accordance with Chapter 16, Section 120.2, Publication 100-04, the laboratory edit module is updated quarterly as necessary to reflect ministerial coding updates and substantive changes to the NCDs developed through the NCD process. The changes are a result of coding analysis decisions developed under the procedures for maintenance of codes in the negotiated NCDs and biannual updates of the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM) codes. CR 10941 communicates requirements to MACs notifying them of changes to the laboratory edit module to update it for changes in laboratory NCD code lists for January 2019.

Please access the following link for the NCD spreadsheets included with CR10941 (<https://www.cms.gov/medicare/coverage/determinationprocess/downloads/January2019.zip>)

Note: MACs will adjust claims brought to their attention, but will not search their files to retract payment for claims already paid or retroactively pay claims.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The official instruction, CR10941, issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/2018Downloads/R4139CP.pdf>.

If you have questions, your MACs may have more information. Find their website at <http://go.cms.gov/MAC-website-list>.

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Date of Change	Description
September 28, 2018	Initial article released.

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