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MLN Matters Number: MM5530

Related Change Request (CR) #: 5530

Related CR Release Date: April 6, 2007

Effective Date: March 20, 2007

Related CR Transmittal #: R67NCD

Implementation Date: May 7, 2007

Blood Brain Barrier Osmotic Disruption for Treatment of Brain Tumors

Note: This article was updated on June 15, 2013, to reflect current Web addresses. All other information remains unchanged.

Provider Types Affected

Physicians and providers submitting claims to Medicare contractors (Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs), Part Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) and carriers)

What Providers Need to Know

Effective for claims with dates of service on or after March 20, 2007, the use of osmotic blood brain barrier disruption is not considered reasonable and necessary when it is used as part of a treatment regimen for brain tumors in Medicare patients.

Background

This article and Change Request (CR) 5530 states that Medicare does not currently have a national coverage determination (NCD) for osmotic blood brain barrier disruption (BBBD) as part of a treatment regimen for brain tumors. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) accepted a formal request for **non-coverage** of BBBD used for this indication.

CMS determined that the use of osmotic blood brain barrier disruption is not reasonable and necessary when it is used as part of a treatment regimen for brain tumors.

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Be aware that the BBBD process includes all items and services necessary to perform the procedure, including hospitalization, monitoring, and repeated imaging procedures.

This NCD does not alter in any manner the coverage of anti-cancer chemotherapy.

Additional Information

If you have questions, please contact your Medicare FI, carrier or MAC at their toll-free number which may be found at <http://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/provider-compliance-interactive-map/index.html> on the CMS website.

CR5530 is the official instruction issued to your Medicare FI, Carrier or MAC. That instruction may be viewed by going to <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R67NCD.pdf> on the CMS website.

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