



The Centers for Medicare & Medicare Services (CMS) has launched the official website for the Medicare & Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs. This website provides the most up-to-date, detailed information about the EHR incentive programs, including the latest EHR educational products. The Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs will provide incentive payments to eligible professionals and hospitals as they adopt, implement, upgrade, or demonstrate meaningful use of certified EHR technology. Bookmark this site and visit <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/index.html> often to learn about who is eligible for the programs, how to register, meaningful use, upcoming EHR training and events, and much more!

MLN Matters® Number: MM7148

Related Change Request (CR) #: 7148

Related CR Release Date: September 24, 2010

Effective Date: August 4, 2010

Related CR Transmittal #: R124NCD

Implementation Date: October 25, 2010

Positron Emission Tomography (FDG PET) for Initial Treatment Strategy (PI) in Solid Tumors and Myeloma

Note: This article was revised on June 6, 2014, to add a reference to MLN Matters® article MM8468 (<http://www.cms.gov/outreach-and-education/medicare-learning-network-mln/mlnmattersarticles/downloads/MM8739.pdf>) to alert providers that, effective for claims with dates of service beginning June 11, 2013, CMS will cover three FDG PET scans without the Coverage with Evidence Development Requirement when used to guide subsequent management of antitumor treatment strategy after completion of initial anticancer therapy for the same cancer diagnosis. Coverage of any additional FDG PET scan (that is, beyond three) used to guide subsequent management of anti-tumor treatment strategy after completion of initial anti-cancer will be determined by your MAC. All other information is unchanged.

Provider Types Affected

This article is for physician, hospitals, and other providers who bill Medicare contractors (carriers, fiscal intermediaries (FI), or Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MAC)) for providing Fluorodeoxyglucose Positron Emission Tomography (FDG PET) services to Medicare beneficiaries.

Disclaimer

This article was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This article may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents.

What You Need to Know

CR 7148, from which this Article is taken, announces that on August 4, 2010, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final decision memorandum determining that currently restricting the use of only one Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scan for therapeutic purposes in the initial treatment strategy for suspected solid tumors and myeloma is not supported by available evidence.

Therefore, effective August 4, 2010, Medicare will continue to nationally cover one FDG PET scan for these indications; and Local Medicare contractors will have discretion to cover (or not cover), within their jurisdictions, any additional FDG PET scans for therapeutic purposes related to the initial treatment strategy.

You should make sure that your billing staffs are aware of this National Coverage Determination (NCD)

Background

Currently, CMS covers only one FDG PET study for beneficiaries who have biopsy-proven solid tumors, or those in whom such tumors are strongly suspected based on other diagnostic testing; when the beneficiary's treating physician determines that the study is needed to determine the location and/or extent of the tumor for the following therapeutic purposes related to the initial treatment strategy in order to:

- Determine whether or not the beneficiary is an appropriate candidate for an invasive diagnostic or therapeutic procedure; or
- Determine the optimal anatomic location for an invasive procedure; or
- Determine the anatomic extent of the tumor when the recommended anti-tumor treatment reasonably depends on the extent of the tumor.

CMS believes that the usefulness of an additional FDG PET scan in the initial treatment plan for any individual beneficiary might be affected by their specific medical problem, the availability of results of other diagnostic tests, and the expertise of the interpreting physician. CMS does not believe an NCD is the most appropriate way to address coverage for additional FDG PET scans in these situations, but rather believes that the local Medicare contractor should determine the efficacy for these tests for therapeutic purposes related to initial treatment strategy.

Effective for claims with dates of service on or after August 4, 2010, CMS issued a final decision memorandum which:

- Removes the current absolute restriction of coverage of only one FDG PET scan to determine the location and/or extent of the tumor for therapeutic purposes related to

Disclaimer

This article was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This article may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents.

- initial treatment strategy (Medicare will continue to nationally cover one FDG PET scan for these indications); and
- Provides that your local Medicare contractors will have the discretion to cover (or not cover), within their jurisdictions, any additional FDG PET scans for therapeutic purposes related to the initial treatment strategy.

Additional Information

You can find more information about the policy that changes the limitation of FDG PET scans for initial treatment strategy in solid tumors and myeloma by going to CR 7148, located at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R124NCD.pdf> on the CMS website. You will find the updated *Medicare National Coverage Determinations Manual* Chapter 1 (Chapter 1, Part 4 (Sections 200-310.1) Coverage Determinations, Section 220.6.17 (Positron Emission Tomography (PET) (FDG) for Oncologic Conditions - (Various Effective Dates)) as an attachment to that CR.

You might also want to review the MLN Matters® article related to CR 6632 (FDG PET for Solid Tumors and Myeloma), released May 6, 2010 (at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6632.pdf>) for existing coding and claims processing requirements.

If you have any questions, please contact your carrier, FI, or A/B 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.

Disclaimer

This article was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This article may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents.