

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



May is National Osteoporosis Month. Medicare provides coverage of and payment for bone mass measurements (BMMs) for beneficiaries who meet certain eligibility and coverage criteria to identify bone mass, detect bone loss, or determine bone quality. [Read more](#) to learn about Medicare coverage of screening BMMs.

MLN Matters® Number: MM9162

Related Change Request (CR) #: CR 9162

Related CR Release Date: May 22, 2015

Effective Date: January 13, 2015

Related CR Transmittal #: R182NCD and R3265CP

Implementation Date: June 23, 2015

NCD20.30 Microvolt T-wave Alternans (MTWA)

Provider Types Affected

This MLN Matters® Article is intended for providers and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for Microvolt T-wave Alternans (MTWA) diagnostic testing services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

What You Need to Know

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 9162 and alerts providers that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) states that effective January 13, 2015, your local MAC will determine, at their discretion, Medicare coverage of MTWA using a Modified Moving Average (MMA) method of analysis and methods of analysis other than spectral analysis (SA) for the evaluation of patients at risk for sudden cardiac death (SCD) from ventricular arrhythmias. No national coverage determination (NCD) is appropriate at this time for MTWA testing using the MMA method for the evaluation of patients at risk for SCD. As a result, national non-coverage of the MMA method was removed.

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Background

CMS was asked to reconsider the NCD on MTWA diagnostic testing to extend coverage to the MMA method of analysis. CMS currently covers MTWA nationally only when it is performed using the SA method for the evaluation of patients at risk for SCD from ventricular arrhythmias, and patients who may be candidates for Medicare coverage of the placement of an implantable cardiac defibrillator (ICD).

Key Points of CR9162

- MACs will accept the inclusion of the -KX modifier on the claim line(s) along with CPT code 93025 (MTWA for assessment of ventricular arrhythmias, short descriptor: microvolt t-wave assess) as an attestation by the practitioner and/or provider of the service that documentation is on file verifying the MTWA was performed using a method of analysis other than SA for the evaluation of patients at risk for SCD from ventricular arrhythmias and that all other NCD criteria were met.
- Claims for MTWA using the SA method of analysis do not require the -KX modifier and will continue to be processed as they are currently. See CR4351 for instructions for processing MTWA claims using the SA method of analysis at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R894CP.pdf> or see MM4351 at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM4351.pdf> on the CMS website.
- Effective for claims with dates of service on and after January 13, 2015, MACs will determine coverage at their discretion of MTWA diagnostic testing for the evaluation of patients at risk for SCD using analysis methods other than SA.
- Effective for dates of service on and after January 13, 2015, MACs will process claims for MTWA diagnostic testing for the evaluation of patients at risk for SCD when methods of analysis other than SA are used.
- If MACs determine that a claim for MTWA with methods of analysis other than SA are billed without the -KX modifier, MACs will deny the claim using the following messages:
 - Claim Adjustment Reason Code (CARC) 4: “The procedure code is inconsistent with the modifier used or a required modifier is missing. Note: Refer to the 835 Healthcare Policy Identification Segment (loop 2110 Service Payment Information REF), if present.”
 - Remittance Advice Remarks Code (RARC) N657 - This should be billed with the appropriate code for these services.
 - Group Code of CO (Contractual Obligation) assigning financial liability to the provider.

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- The following diagnosis code list/translation was approved by CMS. There are duplicate codes because the ICD-9 and ICD-10 tables can be read as a side-by-side translation for ICD-10 purposes and not all translations are 1-to-1 translations. It may or may not be a complete list of covered indications/diagnosis codes that are covered but should serve as a finite starting point. Individual MACs within their respective jurisdictions have the discretion to make coverage determinations they deem reasonable and necessary under section 1862(a)1)(A) of the Social Security Act. Therefore, MACs may have additional covered diagnosis codes in their individual policies where MAC discretion is appropriate.

ICD-9 Codes

Code	Descriptor
410.11	Acute myocardial infarction of other anterior wall, initial episode of care
410.11	Acute myocardial infarction of other anterior wall, initial episode of care
410.01	Acute myocardial infarction of anterolateral wall, initial episode of care
410.11	Acute myocardial infarction of other anterior wall, initial episode of care
410.31	Acute myocardial infarction of inferoposterior wall, initial episode of care
410.21	Acute myocardial infarction of inferolateral wall, initial episode of care
410.41	Acute myocardial infarction of other inferior wall, initial episode of care
410.81	Acute myocardial infarction of other specified sites, initial episode of care
410.51	Acute myocardial infarction of other lateral wall, initial episode of care
410.61	True posterior wall infarction, initial episode of care
410.81	Acute myocardial infarction of other specified sites, initial episode of care
410.91	Acute myocardial infarction of unspecified site, initial episode of care
410.71	Subendocardial infarction, initial episode of care
410.01	Acute myocardial infarction of anterolateral wall, initial episode of care
410.11	Acute myocardial infarction of other anterior wall, initial episode of care
410.21	Acute myocardial infarction of inferolateral wall, initial episode of care
410.31	Acute myocardial infarction of inferoposterior wall, initial episode of care
410.41	Acute myocardial infarction of other inferior wall, initial episode of care
410.71	Subendocardial infarction, initial episode of care
410.51	Acute myocardial infarction of other lateral wall, initial episode of care

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Code	Descriptor
410.61	True posterior wall infarction, initial episode of care
410.81	Acute myocardial infarction of other specified sites, initial episode of care
410.91	Acute myocardial infarction of unspecified site, initial episode of care
411.89	Other acute and subacute forms of ischemic heart disease, other
411.89	Other acute and subacute forms of ischemic heart disease, other
427.1	Paroxysmal ventricular tachycardia
427.1	Paroxysmal ventricular tachycardia
427.41	Ventricular fibrillation
427.42	Ventricular flutter
780.2	Syncope and collapse
V45.89	Other postprocedural status

ICD- 10 Codes (upon implementation of ICD-10)

Code	Descriptor
I21.01	ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction involving left main coronary artery
I21.02	ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction involving left anterior descending coronary artery
I21.09	ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction involving other coronary artery of anterior wall
I21.09	ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction involving other coronary artery of anterior wall
I21.11	ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction involving right coronary artery
I21.19	ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction involving other coronary artery of inferior wall
I21.19	ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction involving other coronary artery of inferior wall
I21.21	ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction involving left circumflex coronary artery

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Code	Descriptor
I21.29	ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction involving other sites
I21.29	ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction involving other sites
I21.29	ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction involving other sites
I21.3	ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction of unspecified site
I21.4	Non-ST elevation (NSTEMI) myocardial infarction
I22.0	Subsequent ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction of anterior wall
I22.0	Subsequent ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction of anterior wall
I22.1	Subsequent ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction of inferior wall
I22.1	Subsequent ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction of inferior wall
I22.1	Subsequent ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction of inferior wall
I22.2	Subsequent non-ST elevation (NSTEMI) myocardial infarction
I22.8	Subsequent ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction of other sites
I22.8	Subsequent ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction of other sites
I22.8	Subsequent ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction of other sites
I22.9	Subsequent ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction of unspecified site
I24.8	Other forms of acute ischemic heart disease
I24.9	Acute ischemic heart disease, unspecified
I47.0	Re-entry ventricular arrhythmia
I47.2	Ventricular tachycardia
I49.01	Ventricular fibrillation
I49.02	Ventricular flutter
R55	Syncope and collapse
Z98.89	Other specified postprocedural states

- Your MAC shall not search for and adjust any claims for MTWA for the evaluation of patients at risk for SCD when methods of analysis other than SA are used, with dates of service January 13, 2015, through the implementation date of CR9162. However, they may adjust claims meeting their coverage criteria when brought to their attention by the provider within the timely filing period if appropriate.

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Additional Information

The official instruction, CR 9162, was issued to your MAC in two transmittals. The first updates the “Medicare National Coverage Determinations Manual” and it is at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R182NCD.pdf> on the CMS website. The second updates the “Medicare Claims Processing Manual” and it is at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R3265CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your MAC at their toll-free number. That number is available at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Net/work-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/index.html> under “How Does It Work” on the CMS website.

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