



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

MLN Matters Number: MM11344

Related Change Request (CR) Number: 11344

Related CR Release Date: July 5, 2019

Effective Date: October 1, 2019

Related CR Transmittal Number: R4330CP

Implementation Date: October 7, 2019

PROVIDER TYPE AFFECTED

This MLN Matters Article is for physicians, providers and suppliers billing Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for laboratory services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

PROVIDER ACTION NEEDED

CR 11344 announces changes that will be in the October 2019 quarterly release of the edit module for clinical diagnostic laboratory services. Please make sure your billing staffs are aware of these changes.

BACKGROUND

The laboratory negotiated rulemaking committee developed the National Coverage Determinations (NCDs) for clinical diagnostic laboratory services. The final rule was published on November 23, 2001. Nationally uniform software was developed and incorporated into the Medicare shared systems so that laboratory claims subject to one of the 23 NCDs (sections 190.12-190.34 of the Medicare NCD Manual) process uniformly throughout the nation, effective April 1, 2003.

Per Chapter 16, Section 120.2 of the Medicare Claims Processing Manual, 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 11344 communicates requirements to Medicare's Shared System Maintainers (SSMs) and MACs to notify them of changes to the laboratory edit module to update it for changes in

laboratory NCD code lists for October 2019. Please access <https://www.cms.hhs.gov/Medicare/Coverage/DeterminationProcess/downloads/October2019.zip> for the NCD spreadsheet included in CR 11344.

Note: MACs will not search their files to either retract payment for claims already paid or to retroactively pay claims unless you bring such claims to their attention.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The official instruction, CR 11344, issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/2019Downloads/R4330CP.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
July 12, 2019	Initial article released.

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