



Flu Season is upon us! Begin now to take advantage of each office visit as an opportunity to talk with your patients about the flu virus and their risks for complications associated with the flu, and encourage them to get their flu shot. And don't forget, health care professionals need to protect themselves also. **Get Your Flu Shot. – Protect yourself, your patients, and your family and friends.** Remember - Influenza vaccination is a covered Part B benefit. Note that influenza vaccine is NOT a Part D covered drug. For information about Medicare's coverage of adult immunizations and educational resources, go to <http://www.cms.gov/outreach-and-education/medicare-learning-network-mln/mlnmattersarticles/downloads/SE0667.pdf> on the CMS website.

MLN Matters Number: MM5384

Related Change Request (CR) #: 5384

Related CR Release Date: October 27, 2006

Effective Date: January 1, 2007

Related CR Transmittal #: R1093CP

Implementation Date: January 2, 2007

**Note:** This article was updated on October 31, 2012, to reflect current Web addresses. All other information remains unchanged.

## Changes to the Laboratory National Coverage Determination (NCD) Edit Software for January 2007

### Provider Types Affected

Physicians, providers, and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare carriers, fiscal intermediaries (FIs), or Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs) for clinical diagnostic laboratory services provided for Medicare beneficiaries.

### Provider Action Needed

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 5384, which announces the changes that will be included in the January, 2007 release of the edit module for clinical diagnostic laboratory NCDs.

### Background

The National Coverage Determinations (NCDs) for clinical diagnostic laboratory services were developed by the laboratory negotiated rulemaking committee and published as a final rule on November 23, 2001. Subsequently, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) contracted for nationally uniform software to be developed and incorporated into its shared systems so that laboratory claims

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subject to one of the 23 NCDs can be processed uniformly throughout the nation effective January 1, 2003.

The laboratory edit module for the NCDs is updated quarterly (as necessary) to reflect coding updates and substantive changes to the NCDs developed through the NCD process. (See the Medicare Claims Processing Manual (Pub. 100-04), Chapter 16, Section 120.2., available at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/clm104c16.pdf> on the CMS website.)

These updating 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 ICD-9-CM codes. In addition, many of the listed changes may correct Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes to reflect the current CPT update.

CR5384 informs your Medicare carrier, FI, or A/B MAC about changes to the laboratory edit module and changes in laboratory NCD code lists effective for services furnished on or after January 1, 2007.

CR5384 specifically announces the addition of the following ICD-9-CM code(s):

- **V58.83 (Encounter for therapeutic drug monitoring)** to the list of 1) ICD-9-CM codes covered by Medicare for the **Prothrombin Time (190.17) NCD** and 2) ICD-9-CM codes covered by Medicare for the **Partial Thromboplastin Time (190.16) NCD**;
- **783.0 (Anorexia)** and **793.99 (Other nonspecific abnormal findings on radiological and other examinations of body structure)** to the list of ICD-9-CM codes covered by Medicare for the **Thyroid Testing (190.22) NCD**; and
- **995.20 (Unspecified adverse effect of unspecified drug, medicinal and biological substance)** to the list of ICD-9-CM codes covered by Medicare for the **Fecal Occult Blood Test (190.34) NCD**.

CR5384 also modifies the descriptor for **CPT code 87088 in Urine Culture, Bacterial NCD (190.12)** to read "Culture, bacterial; with isolation and presumptive identification of each isolates, urine;".

## Additional Information

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For complete details, please see the official instruction issued to your carrier, FI, or A/B MAC regarding this change. That instruction may be viewed at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R1093CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

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.

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