



**News Flash - Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI)** - The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will begin testing eleven new quality measures for possible adoption in the PQRI program in future years. To learn more about how you can help CMS test these measures, visit <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/pqri> on the CMS website and select the "Measures/Codes" link on the left side of the page. And as a reminder, all educational resources about the 2008 PQRI are available on the dedicated PQRI webpage on the CMS website. To access this web page, visit <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/pqri> on the CMS website.

MLN Matters Number: MM6099

Related Change Request (CR) #: 6099

Related CR Release Date: June 27, 2008

Effective Date: March 19, 2008

Related CR Transmittal #: R84NCD

Implementation Date: July 28, 2008

## Fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG) Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Imaging for Infection and Inflammation

### Provider Types Affected

Physicians, providers, and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare contractors (carriers, Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs), and/or Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs)) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

### Impact on Providers

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 6099 instructing that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is continuing its national non-coverage policy for the off-label indications of fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG) Positron emission tomography (PET) imaging for chronic osteomyelitis, infection of hip arthroplasty, and fever of unknown origin.

### Background

CMS was asked to reconsider the current, de facto non-coverage for FDG PET imaging in the Medicare National Coverage Determinations (NCD) Manual

#### 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.

(Section 220.6), for the following off-label uses (instead of bone, leukocyte, and/or gallium scintigraphy):

1. Suspected chronic osteomyelitis in patients with:
  - previously documented osteomyelitis with suspected recurrence, or
  - symptoms of osteomyelitis for more than 6 weeks (including diabetic foot ulcers);
2. Investigation of patients with suspected infection of hip prosthesis; and
3. Fever of unknown origin in patients with:
  - a febrile illness of >3 weeks duration,
  - a temperature of >38.3 degrees Centigrade on at least two occasions, and
  - uncertain diagnosis after a thorough history, physical examination, and 1 week of proper investigation.

Based upon its review, CMS determined that the evidence is inadequate to conclude that FDG PET for chronic osteomyelitis, infection of hip arthroplasty, and fever of unknown origin improves health outcomes in the Medicare populations, and therefore is not reasonable and necessary under the Social Security Act (section 1862(a)(1)(A)) (See that provision at [http://www.ssa.gov/OP\\_Home/ssact/title18/1862.htm](http://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title18/1862.htm) on the internet.)

Additionally, CMS determined that this request for coverage is not appropriate for the Coverage with Evidence Development (CED) paradigm.

## Additional Information

---

The official instruction, CR 6099, issued to your carrier, FI, and A/B MAC regarding this change may be viewed at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R84NCD.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your carrier, FI, or A/B MAC at their toll-free numbers, which may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> 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.