



News Flash – Did you know that the Medicare Learning Network (MLN) contains many products and tools to assist providers? If you find the MLN Matters® articles to be of help to you, then you will want to look at the other MLN products as well. Visit <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNGenInfo/> for a complete overview of the MLN as well as links to a “What’s New” section and contact information for asking questions about MLN products. Also, look through the MLN Products Catalog at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/MLNCatalog.pdf> for a list and brief description of all the MLN products available to assist you and your support staff in serving Medicare patients.

MLN Matters® Number: MM6481

Related Change Request (CR) #: 6481

Related CR Release Date: May 15, 2009

Effective Date: July 1, 2009

Related CR Transmittal #: R1735CP

Implementation Date: July 6, 2009

Changes to the Laboratory National Coverage Determination (NCD) Edit Software for July 2009

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) 6481 which announces the changes that will be included in the July 2009 release of Medicare’s edit module for clinical diagnostic laboratory National Coverage Determinations (NCDs). The last quarterly release of the edit module was issued in April 2009. Be sure staff is aware of these changes.

Background

The National Coverage Determinations (NCDs) for clinical diagnostic laboratory services were developed by the laboratory negotiated rulemaking committee and

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published in a final rule on November 23, 2001. Nationally uniform software was developed and incorporated in Medicare's systems so that laboratory claims subject to one of the 23 NCDs were processed uniformly throughout the nation effective January 1, 2003.

In accordance with the *Medicare Claims Processing Manual*, Chapter 16, Section 120.2 (see <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/downloads/clm104c16.pdf> on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website), 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.

CR 6481 announces changes to the laboratory edit module, for changes in laboratory NCD code lists for July 2009 as described below. These changes become effective for services furnished on or after July 1, 2009 and are as follows:

For Prothrombin Time (PT):

- Add ICD-9-CM codes 200.30-200.38, 200.40-200.48, 200.50-200.58, 200.60-200.68, 200.70-200.78, 202.70-202.78, and 440.4 to the list of ICD-9-CM codes covered by Medicare for the Prothrombin Time (PT) (190.17) NCD.

For Serum Iron Studies:

- Add ICD-9-CM codes 200.30-200.38, 200.40-200.48, 200.50-200.58, 200.60-200.68, 200.70-200.78, and 202.70-202.78 to the list of ICD-9-CM codes covered by Medicare for the Serum Iron Studies (190.18) NCD.

For Lipid Testing:

- Add ICD-9-CM code 440.4 to the list of ICD-9-CM codes covered by Medicare for the Lipids Testing (190.23) NCD.

For Gamma Glutamyl Transferase:

- Add ICD-9-CM codes 200.30-200.38, 200.40-200.48, 200.50-200.58, 200.60-200.68, 200.70-200.78 and 202.70-202.78 to the list of ICD-9-CM codes covered by Medicare for the Gamma Glutamyl Transferase (190.32) NCD.

Additional Information

If you have questions, please contact your Medicare MAC, carrier, or FI at their toll-free number which may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website. The official instruction (CR6481) issued to your Medicare MAC, carrier, and/or FI may be found at

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<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1735CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

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