

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



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MLN Matters® Number: MM7621

Related Change Request (CR) #: 7621

Related CR Release Date: November 4, 2011

Effective Date: January 1, 2012, except one item (note below, which has an effective date of October 1, 2011)

Related CR Transmittal #: R2344CP

Implementation Date: January 3, 2012

## Changes to the Laboratory National Coverage Determination (NCD) Edit Software for January 2012

### Provider Types Affected

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This article is for 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

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This article is based on Change Request (CR) 7621, which announces the changes that will be included in the January 2012 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 October 2011. Please ensure that your billing staffs are aware of these changes.

#### 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. CPT only copyright 2010 American Medical Association.

## Background

The NCDs for clinical diagnostic laboratory services were developed by the laboratory negotiated rulemaking committee and 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 July 1, 2003. In accordance with the "Medicare Claims Processing Manual," Chapter 16, Section 120.2, available at <http://www.cms.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. 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 ICD-9-CM codes.

## CR 7621 Changes to the NCD Code Lists

CR 7621 announces changes to the laboratory edit module for changes in laboratory NCD code lists for January 2012. The changes to the NCD code lists are described below and are effective for dates of service on and after January 1, 2012.

### Deleted ICD-9-CM Codes

- Delete ICD-9-CM codes 425.11 and 425.18 from the list of ICD-9-CM codes that are covered by Medicare for the **Alpha-fetoprotein (190.25) NCD**.

### Added ICD-9-CM Codes (Effective October 1, 2011)

- Add ICD-9-CM codes 786.50 and 786.51 to the list of ICD-9-CM codes that are covered by Medicare for the Prothrombin Time (PT)(190.17) NCD.

### ICD-10-CM Codes

- CR7621 also contains two ICD-10 codes that contractors will track to ensure that these edits are properly updated during the ICD-10 implementation (see table below).

ICD-9-CM Code	ICD-10-CM Code
786.50	R07.9
786.51	R07.2

**Note:** Contractors will not search their files to either retract payment for claims already paid or to retroactively pay claims, but they will adjust claims brought to their attention.

## Additional Information

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The official instruction, CR 7621 issued to your carrier, FI or A/B MAC regarding this change may be viewed at

<http://www.cms.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R2344CP.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/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website.

**News Flash –Vaccinate Early to Protect Against the Flu /2011-2012 Influenza Vaccine Prices Are Now Available**

CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccination as the most important step in protecting against flu viruses. Remind your patients that annual vaccination is recommended for optimal protection. Under Medicare Part B, Medicare pays for the flu vaccine and its administration for seniors and other Medicare beneficiaries with no co-pay or deductible. Take advantage of each office visit and start protecting your patients as soon as your 2011-2012 seasonal flu vaccine arrives. And don't forget to immunize yourself and your staff. Get the Flu Vaccination – Not the Flu.

CMS has posted the 2011-2012 seasonal influenza vaccine payment limits at:

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