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Related Change Request (CR) #: 4328

Related CR Release Date: February 17, 2006

Effective Date: April 1, 2006

Related CR Transmittal #: R864CP

Implementation Date: April 3, 2006

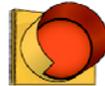
Changes to the Laboratory National Coverage Determination (NCD) Edit Software for April 2006

Note: This article was updated on October 26, 2012, to reflect current Web addresses. All other information remains unchanged.

Provider Types Affected

Physicians, suppliers, and providers billing Medicare carriers and/or fiscal intermediaries (FIs) for clinical diagnostic laboratory services.

Provider Action Needed



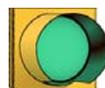
STOP – Impact to You

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 4328, which announces the implementation of changes to the list of codes associated with the 23 negotiated laboratory NCDs, and the update of the laboratory edit module for changes in the laboratory NCD code lists for April 2006.



CAUTION – What You Need to Know

The changes to the list of codes are a result of coding analysis decisions developed under the procedures for maintenance of codes in the negotiated NCDs. Several of the listed changes correct codes to reflect the recent Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) update and are necessary so that the laboratory edit module will appropriately process claims using the most current negotiated laboratory NCDs and code lists.



GO – What You Need to Do

See the *Background* section of this article for further details regarding these changes.

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Background

In accordance with the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (Section 4554), the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) entered into negotiated rulemaking proceedings to develop national coverage determinations (NCDs) for clinical diagnostic laboratory services.

Under the negotiations, CMS developed 23 laboratory NCDs, and these NCDs are different than most other Medicare NCDs in that they include lists of ICD-9-CM codes. All codes are included on one of the following lists:

- Covered codes;
- Not covered codes; and
- Codes that do not support medical necessity.

The NCDs were published under the Administrative Procedures Act in the Federal Register of November 23, 2001 (http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a011123c.html), and the list of 23 laboratory NCDs is included in the *Additional Information* section of this article. In addition, the CMS website for Laboratory NCDs can be found at http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coverage/CoverageGenInfo/index.html/CoverageGenInfo/04_LabNCDs.asp on the CMS website.

Nationally uniform software was developed by Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) and incorporated in the shared systems so that laboratory claims subject to one of the 23 NCDs are processed uniformly throughout the nation effective January 1, 2003. The laboratory edit module for the NCDs is updated quarterly as necessary to reflect ministerial coding updates and substantive changes to the NCDs developed through the NCD process.

(See the *Medicare Claims Processing Manual* (Publication 100-4, Chapter 16, Section 120.2, at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Internet-Only-Manuals-IOMs.html>) on the CMS website.)

CMS updates the NCD code list quarterly as necessary to incorporate new codes, correct ministerial errors, incorporate the results of Coding Analysis published elsewhere on this site, and incorporate reconsideration of the NCDs that alter covered indications. The quarterly updates are published in the NCD Coding Policy Manual, and you can download the current and previous coding manuals from this site. Alternatively, you can access individual NCDs from the lab index included at <http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/overview-and-quick-search.aspx> on the CMS website.

Change Request (CR) 4238 announces the changes that will be included in the April 2006 release of the edit module for clinical diagnostic laboratory services. The changes are a result of coding analysis decisions developed under the

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procedures for maintenance of codes in the negotiated NCDs. Several of the listed changes correct codes to reflect the current CPT update. CR4238 communicates requirements to the laboratory edit module to update it for the following changes in laboratory NCD code lists for April 2006:

Blood Count NCD

Add the following ICD-9-CM code to the list of **codes that do not support medical necessity** for the Blood Count NCD:

Add ICD-9-CM Code	Descriptor
V76.51	Special screening for malignant neoplasms, colon

ICD-9-CM Codes Never Covered by Medicare

Delete the following ICD-9-CM code from the list of ICD-9-CM **codes never covered** by Medicare:

Delete ICD-9-CM Code	Descriptor
V76.51	Special screening for malignant neoplasms, colon

Fecal Occult Blood Test NCD

Add the following new CPT code to the list of HCPCS/CPT codes covered by Medicare for Fecal Occult Blood Test NCD:

Add CPT Codes	Descriptor
82272	Blood occult peroxidase

Delete the following CPT code from the HCPCS/CPT code list for Fecal Occult Blood Test NCD:

Delete CPT Code	Descriptor
82270	Fecal occult blood

Hepatitis Panel/Acute Hepatitis Panel NCD

Add the following ICD-9-CM code to the list of ICD-9-CM codes covered by Medicare for Hepatitis Panel/Acute Hepatitis Panel NCD:

Add ICD-9-CM Code	Descriptor
790.4	Nonspecific Elevation of Levels of Transaminase or Lactic Acid Dehydrogenase

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Lipids Testing NCD

Add the following new CPT codes to the list of HCPCS/CPT codes covered by Medicare for Lipids Testing NCD:

Add CPT Codes	Descriptor
83700	Lipoprotein bld, electrophoretic
83701	Lipoprotein bld, hr fraction

Delete the following CPT codes from the HCPCS/CPT code list for Lipids Testing NCD:

Delete CPT Codes	Descriptor
83715	Lipoprotein, blood: electrophoretic separation and quantitation
83716	High resolution fractionation and quantitation of lipoprotein cholesterol

Urine Culture, Bacterial NCD

Delete Coding Guideline 1 in the Urine Culture, Bacterial NCD, and renumber the remaining Coding Guidelines.

Note: Changes included in the April 2006 release of the edit module for clinical diagnostic laboratory services become effective for services furnished on or after April 1, 2006.

Additional Information

For complete details, please see the official instruction issued to your carrier/intermediary regarding this change. That instruction may be viewed at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R864CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your carrier/intermediary 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.

The following table includes the list of all twenty-three (23) Laboratory National Coverage Determinations, and each NCD can be reviewed at http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/overview-and-quick-search.aspx?ncd_sections=40 on the CMS website.

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Laboratory National Coverage Determination (NCD)	
1.	Alpha-fetoprotein (AFP) (190.25)
2.	Blood Counts (190.15)
3.	Blood Glucose Testing (190.20)
4.	Carcinoembryonic Antigen (CEA) (190.26)
5.	Collagen Crosslinks, any Method (190.19)
6.	Digoxin Therapeutic Drug Assay (190.24)
7.	Fecal Occult Blood Test (FOBT) (190.34)
8.	Gamma Glutamyl Transferase (GGT) (190.32)
9.	Glycated Hemoglobin/Glycated Protein (190.21)
10.	Hepatitis Panel/Acute Hepatitis Panel (190.33)
11.	Human Chorionic Gonadotropin (hCG) (190.27)
12.	Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Testing (Diagnosis) (190.14)
13.	Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Testing (Prognosis Including Monitoring) (190.13)
14.	Lipid Testing (190.23)
15.	Partial Thromboplastin Time (PTT) (190.16)
16.	Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) (190.31)
17.	Prothrombin Time (PT) (190.17)
18.	Serum Iron Studies (190.18)
19.	Thyroid Testing (190.22)
20.	Tumor Antigen by Immunoassay - CA 125 (190.28)
21.	Tumor Antigen by Immunoassay - CA 15-3/CA 27.29 (190.29)
22.	Tumor Antigen by Immunoassay - CA 19-9 (190.30)
23.	Urine Culture, Bacterial (190.12)

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