Changes to the Laboratory National Coverage Determination (NCD) Edit Software for October 2020

MLN Matters Number: MM11889  Related Change Request (CR) Number: 11889
Related CR Release Date: July 10, 2020  Effective Date: October 1, 2020
Related CR Transmittal Number: R10215NCD  Implementation Date: October 5, 2020

PROVIDER TYPES AFFECTED

This MLN Matters Article is for physicians, providers and suppliers billing Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

PROVIDER ACTION NEEDED

This article announces the changes that will be included in the October 2020 quarterly release of the edit module for clinical diagnostic laboratory services. Please be sure your billing staffs are aware of these updates.

BACKGROUND

The laboratory negotiated rulemaking committee developed the National Coverage Determinations (NCDs) for clinical diagnostic laboratory services, and the final rule was published on November 23, 2001. Nationally uniform software was developed and incorporated in the Medicare shared systems, so that laboratory claims subject to one of the 23 NCDs (see Medicare National Coverage Determination, Sections 190.12 - 190.34) were processed uniformly throughout the nation, effective April 1, 2003.

In accordance with the Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 16, Section 120.2, 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 International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM) codes.

CR 11889 communicates requirements to Medicare’s Shared System Maintainers (SSMs) and MACs, notifying them of changes to the laboratory edit module to update it for changes in laboratory NCD code lists for October 2020.
You may access the NCD spreadsheet included with CR 11889 at

Note: MACs will not search their files to either retract payment for claims already paid or to retroactively pay claims unless you bring such claims to their attention.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION


If you have questions, your MACs may have more information. Find their website at http://go.cms.gov/MAC-website-list.

DOCUMENT HISTORY

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<tr>
<th>Date of Change</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>July 10, 2020</td>
<td>Initial article released.</td>
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