



National Coverage Determination 20.19: Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring

Related Change Request (CR) Information	
Numbers: 11650 Revised & 14424	Release Dates: May 1, 2020 & March 27, 2026
Effective Date: July 2, 2019	Implementation Date: June 16, 2020 – local Medicare Administrative Contractor edits & October 5, 2020 – Medicare systems
Transmittal Numbers: R10073CP , R10073NCD & R13700CP	

What's Changed?

We revised this article to add information from CR 14424, which updates the Medicare Claims Processing Manual for Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring services. We also added the CR 14424 release date and transmittal number.

Affected Providers

- Physicians
- Hospitals
- Other providers billing Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring (ABPM) services

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Key Updates

For dates of service on and after July 2, 2019, CMS covers ABPM for diagnosing hypertension in Medicare patients under these circumstances:

1. For patients with suspected white coat hypertension, which is defined as an average office systolic blood pressure (BP) greater than 130 mm Hg but less than 160 mm Hg or diastolic BP greater than 80 mm Hg but less than 100 mm Hg on 2 separate office visits with at least 2 separate measurements made at each visit and with at least 2 BP measurements taken outside the office that are less than 130/80 mm Hg
2. For patients with suspected masked hypertension, which is defined as an average office BP between 120 mm Hg and 129 mm Hg for systolic BP or between 75 mm Hg and 79 mm Hg for diastolic BP on 2 separate office visits with at least 2 separate measurements made at each visit and with at least 2 BP measurements taken outside the office that are greater than or equal to 130/80 mm Hg

ABPM devices must be:

- Capable of producing standardized plots of BP measurements for 24 hours with daytime and night-time windows and normal BP bands demarcated
- Provided to patients with oral and written instructions, and a test run in the physician’s office must be performed
- Interpreted by the treating physician or treating non-physician practitioner

Coverage of other indications for ABPM is at the discretion of the MACs.

Note: Effective for dates of service on or after July 2, 2019, for eligible patients, we cover ABPM once per year.

When denying claims for subsequent ABPM (HCPCS code 93784) on or after October 5, 2020, because we paid a previous claim with HCPCS 93784 in claims history within the past 12 months, MACs will use these messages:

- Claim Adjustment Reason Code 119: Benefit maximum for this time period or occurrence has been reached
- Remittance Advice Remarks Code N130: Consult plan benefit documents/guidelines for information about restrictions for this service

Note: We discontinued previous ABPM CPT codes 93786, 93788, and 93790 for claims with dates of service on and after July 2, 2019.

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Background

ABPM is a diagnostic test that identifies various types of high BP. The [Medicare National Coverage Determination \(NCD\) Manual, Chapter 1, Part 1](#), section 20.19, establishes conditions of coverage for ABPM. We've covered ABPM since 2001 only for those patients with documented suspected white coat hypertension. On January 16, 2003, we issued a technical correction for this NCD to clarify that a physician is required to interpret the ABPM data, but the policy doesn't require a specific setting for interpretation.

Note: See the ABPM claims processing instructions provided in previous CRs [2726](#) and [9751](#) for additional information.

More Information

We issued these transmittals to your MAC as the official instructions for this change:

- R10073CP
- R10073NCD
- **R13700CP, which updates the [Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 32, section 10.1](#)**

For more information, find your [MAC's website](#).

Document History

Date of Change	Description
March 31, 2026	We revised this article to add information from CR 14424, which updates the Medicare Claims Processing Manual for Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring services. We also added the CR 14424 release date and transmittal number.
April 12, 2021	We replaced article links with links to related CRs.
May 12, 2020	Initial article released.

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