



National Coverage Determination (NCD) Removal

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October 4, 2021

Note: We revised this Article to reflect a revised CR 12254. The CR revision didn't impact the substance of the Article. We did change the CR release date, transmittal number, and the web address of the CR. All other information is the same.

Provider Types Affected

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

Provider Action Needed

This Article tells you CMS removed 6 National Coverage Determinations (NCDs) from the Medicare NCD Manual, Pub. 100-03, as a result of an NCD removal process through rulemaking in the Calendar Year (CY) 2021 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule ([85 FR 84472](#), December 28, 2020). Please be sure your billing staffs are aware of these updates.

Background

The [final rule](#) contains a summary of the NCD removal process and explicitly removes the following 6 NCDs from the NCD Manual:

- NCD 20.5 Extracorporeal Immunoabsorption (ECI) Using Protein A Columns
- NCD 30.4 Electrosleep Therapy
- NCD 100.9 Implantation of Gastrointestinal Reflux Devices
- NCD 110.19 Abarelix for the Treatment of Prostate Cancer
- NCD 220.2.1 Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy
- NCD 220.6.16 FDG PET for Inflammation and Infection

The [final rule](#) also makes a non-substantive conforming change to NCD 220.6 Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Scans, which will be reflected in the NCD Manual.

In the absence of an NCD, the MACs and adjudicators will consider whether any Medicare claims for these items or services are reasonable and necessary under [Section 1862\(a\)\(1\)\(A\)](#) of the Social Security Act, consistent with the existing guidance for making such decisions when there isn't an NCD. Therefore, coverage of the above 6 NCDs revert to MAC discretion effective for claims with dates of service on and after January 1, 2021.

More Information

We issued [CR 12254](#) to your MAC as the official instruction for this change.

For more information, contact your [MAC](#).

Document History

Date of Change	Description
August 3, 2021	We revised this Article to reflect the revised CR 12254. The CR revision didn't impact the substance of the Article. We did change the CR release date, transmittal number, and the web address of the CR. All other information is the same.
July 19, 2021	We revised this Article to reflect the revised CR 12254. The CR revision didn't impact the substance of the Article. We did change the CR release date, transmittal number, and the web address of the CR. All other information is the same.
June 16, 2021	We revised this Article to reflect the revised CR 12254. The CR revision didn't impact the substance of the Article. We did change the CR release date, transmittal number, and the web address of the CR. All other information is the same.
May 24, 2021	Initial article released.

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