



## Transvenous (Catheter) Pulmonary Embolectomy National Coverage Determination (NCD) Section 240.6

MLN Matters Number: MM12537

Related Change Request (CR) Number: 12537

Related CR Release Date: December 16, 2021

Effective Date: October 28, 2021

Related CR Transmittal Number: R11159NCD

Implementation Date: January 17, 2022

### Provider Types Affected

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This MLN Matters Article is for physicians, providers, and suppliers billing Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for Transvenous Pulmonary Embolectomy (TPE) services they provide to Medicare patients.

### What You Need to Know

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In this Article, you'll learn that:

- CMS removed the NCD for TPE
- In the absence of an NCD, your MAC will make coverage determinations for TPEs

Make sure your billing staff knows about these changes.

### Background

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Prior to CR 12537, Medicare didn't cover TPE, per Section 240.6 of the NCD Manual. TPE is a treatment for patients with acute pulmonary embolism. Pulmonary Embolism (PE) occurs when a thrombus (clot) forms in the body, such as in the deep veins of the legs (Deep Venous Thrombosis (DVT)), breaks loose, travels through the venous system, and gets lodged in one or more pulmonary arteries feeding the lungs. Both DVT and PE are a continuum of a single disease process: venous thromboembolism. TPE, also called percutaneous pulmonary thrombectomy, mechanical thrombectomy, and catheter embolectomy, involves catheter-directed extraction of the clot.

We generated this NCD reconsideration based upon stakeholder feedback, including in public comments from the 2021 Physician Fee Schedule proposed rule. That rule included a number of proposed NCD removals.

As a result of the removal of the non-coverage NCD for TPE, we're removing the current text of Section 240.6 of the NCD Manual.

Effective for claims with dates of service on or after October 28, 2021, CMS removes the NCD for TPE. In the absence of an NCD, your MAC will make coverage determinations for TPE under [Section 1862\(a\)\(1\)\(A\) of the Social Security Act](#).

## More Information

We issued [CR 12537](#) to your MAC as the official instruction for this change.

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

## Document History

Date of Change	Description
December 20, 2021	Initial article released.

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