



Laboratory National Coverage Determination Edit Software: January 2026 Update

Related CR Release Date: December 17, 2025	MLN Matters Number: MM14226
Effective Date: January 1, 2026, unless noted otherwise in requirements	Related Change Request (CR) Number: CR 14226
Implementation Date: January 5, 2026	Related CR Transmittal Number: R13404CP
Related CR Title: Changes to the Laboratory National Coverage Determination (NCD) Edit Software for January 2026	

Affected Providers

- Physicians
- Suppliers
- Other providers billing Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for services

Action Needed

Make sure your billing staff knows about National Coverage Determinations (NCDs) with added ICD-10-CM codes.

Background

CR 14226 announces changes included in the January 2026 quarterly release of the clinical diagnostic laboratory services edit module. The laboratory negotiated rulemaking committee developed the NCDs for clinical diagnostic laboratory services in 2001. CMS developed the nationally uniform software and incorporated it in the Medicare shared systems so that MACs process laboratory claims for the 23 NCDs in the [Medicare NCD Manual, Chapter 1, Part 3](#), sections 190.12–190.34 uniformly throughout the nation.

We update the laboratory edit module quarterly, as necessary, to reflect ministerial coding updates and substantive changes to NCDs. Changes result from coding analysis decisions developed under code maintenance procedures in the negotiated NCDs and ICD-10-CM biannual code updates.

Key Updates

NCDs with added ICD-10 codes in the January 2026 update:

- NCD 190.12 – Urine Culture, Bacterial
- NCD 190.14 – Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Testing (Diagnosis)
- NCD 190.15 – Blood Counts
- NCD 190.16 – Partial Thromboplastin Time (PTT)
- NCD 190.17 – Prothrombin Time (PT)
- NCD 190.18 – Serum Iron Studies
- NCD 190.20A – Blood Glucose Testing
- NCD 190.20B – Blood Glucose Testing
- NCD 190.21A – Glycated Hemoglobin/Glycated Protein
- NCD 190.21B – Glycated Hemoglobin/Glycated Protein
- NCD 190.22 – Thyroid Testing
- NCD 190.23A – Lipid Testing
- NCD 190.23B – Lipid Testing
- NCD 190.25 – Alpha-fetoprotein
- NCD 190.26 – Carcinoembryonic Antigen
- NCD 190.27 – Human Chorionic Gonadotropin
- NCD 190.28 – Tumor Antigen by Immunoassay - CA 125
- NCD 190.29 – Tumor Antigen by Immunoassay - CA 15-3/CA 27.29
- NCD 190.32 – Gamma Glutamyl Transferase
- NCD 190.33 – Hepatitis Panel/Acute Hepatitis Panel
- NCD 190.34 – Fecal Occult Blood Test

See CR 14226 to find specific codes we're adding.

Note: MACs won't search their files to either retract payment for claims already paid or to retroactively pay claims. However, MACs will adjust claims you bring to their attention.

More Information

We issued CR 14226 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 23, 2025	Initial article released.

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