

MLN Matters Number: MM5108

Related Change Request (CR) #: 5108

Related CR Release Date: May 26, 2006

Effective Date: July 1, 2006

Related CR Transmittal #: R959CP

Implementation Date: July 3, 2006

Changes to the Laboratory National Coverage Determination (NCD) Edit Software for July 2006

Provider Types Affected

Physicians, providers, and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare carriers and fiscal intermediaries (FIs) for clinical diagnostic laboratory services provided for Medicare beneficiaries.

Impact on Providers

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 5108, which communicates requirements to Medicare contractors (carriers and FIs) notifying them of changes to the laboratory edit module and to update the laboratory edit module for changes in laboratory NCD code lists for July 2006.

Background

The National Coverage Determinations (NCDs) for clinical diagnostic laboratory services were developed by the laboratory negotiated rulemaking committee and published as a final rule on November 23, 2001. Subsequently, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) contracted for nationally uniform software to be developed and incorporated into its shared systems so that laboratory claims subject to one of the 23 NCDs can be processed uniformly throughout the nation effective January 1, 2003.

The laboratory edit module for the NCDs is updated quarterly (as necessary) to reflect coding updates and substantive changes to the NCDs developed through the NCD process. (See the *Medicare Claims Processing Manual* (Pub.100-4), Chapter 16, §120.2; <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/downloads/clm104c16.pdf>). These changes are a result of coding analysis decisions developed under the procedures for maintenance of codes in the negotiated NCDs, and several of the

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listed changes correct Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes to reflect the current CPT update.

CR5108 informs your Medicare carrier and FI about changes in the laboratory NCD code lists for July 2006 that require updating of the laboratory edit module. The key change being made to the NCD code lists for July 2006 is that CPT code 83704 (Quantitation of lipoprotein particle numbers and lipoprotein particles subclasses) is being added to the list of HCPCS/CPT codes covered by Medicare for the Lipids Testing NCD.

Implementation

The implementation date for the instruction is July 3, 2006.

Additional Information

For complete details, please see the official instruction (CR5108) issued to your carrier/intermediary regarding this change. That instruction may be viewed at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R959CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your carrier/intermediary at their toll-free number, which may be found at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website

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