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Tool Available for Registering Patients with Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillators

Note: This article was revised on January 14, 2009, to add a reference to MLN Matters article SE0578 (<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0578.pdf>). SE0578 announced that in order for providers to continue to satisfy the National Coverage Determination (NCD) requirements for primary prevention ICDs, they had to transition out of QNet and begin using the American College of Cardiology National Cardiac Data Registry (ACC-NCDR) registry. Providers should disregard references to the ICD Abstraction (ICDA) tool. There were also two references added to related articles in the Additional Information section.

Provider Types Affected

Physicians and other providers needing to register Medicare patients receiving the Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator (ICD) as primary prevention of sudden cardiac death

Provider Action Needed



STOP – Impact to You

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) requires that any Medicare patient receiving an ICD as primary prevention of sudden cardiac death be enrolled in a data collection system. CMS has an electronic tool available to Medicare participating hospitals to assist in submitting this data to the data collection system, also referred to as the registry.



CAUTION – What You Need to Know

CMS identifies Medicare patients receiving an ICD for primary prevention indications and requiring participation in a registry. For more information on the registry go to <http://www.accncdr.com/webncdr/ICD> on the Internet.

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GO – What You Need to Do

Review this article for more details and work closely with your hospital to ensure it is participating in data collection and you are providing necessary data.

Background

CMS has released an Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator Abstraction (ICDA) tool to facilitate the collection of information related to ICDs. The tool is available for download by each hospital's QualityNet Exchange Administrator (**See note above**).

Please note that users must utilize this direct link to access the ICDA information. Once at this page, you will see a brief overview of the tool and then click on "ICDA Tools" to begin the download process for the tool and associated guides for using the tool.

Also available on the web site is a "paper" tool. This is a one-page, printable version of the ICDA and contains a list of all data elements collected in the tool. Providers are not required to use the paper tool. In addition, Frequently Asked Questions are available at the same web location.

CMS has already notified many providers of the availability of this tool through the Hospital Data Collection auto-notification public list and the Inpatient Point of Contact ListServe.

CMS covers ICDs for certain populations of patients as both primary and secondary prevention of sudden cardiac arrest. However, Medicare requires that any Medicare patient receiving an ICD or replacement ICD as primary prevention be enrolled in a data collection system. Submitting patient information through the ICDA tool satisfies the coverage requirement. The complete document describing the coverage policy and data submission requirements is located at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/downloads/ncd103c1_Part1.pdf on the CMS website.

Beneficiaries receiving an ICD for primary prevention can be identified through the absence of ICD-9-CM diagnosis codes for secondary prevention from the claim. A patient claim for which at least one of the following codes does not appear for secondary prevention could signify that the patient should be enrolled in a registry.

Medicare Part B claims submitted on or after April 1, 2005 for implantation of an ICD for primary prevention should include a QR modifier to signify that the patient is enrolled in a registry. Although CMS does not have a coding mechanism for Part A claims that is similar to the function of modifier QR on Part B claims, CMS will have the ability to match inpatient claims to identify and review registry participation through other mechanisms.

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Because coding practices may vary slightly, providers should rely primarily on the coverage guidance provided at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/downloads/ncd103c1_Part1.pdf to determine whether data submission is required. The following codes serve to assist in identifying patients with previous arrhythmias (secondary prevention) however depending on coding practices may not accurately reflect the requirements for coverage:

- 427.1 Ventricular tachycardia
- 427.41 Ventricular fibrillation
- 427.42 Ventricular flutter
- 427.5 Cardiac arrest
- 427.9 Cardiac dysrhythmia, unspecified.

The ICDA tool allows for on-line collection of registry information, including patient identifiers, history and clinical characteristics, medications, ICD indications, device information, complications, and facility and provider information. The ICDA tool allows for the ability to import and export data utilizing existing XML standards.

Using the ICDA tool to collect standardized data assists CMS in making a reasonable and necessary determination for Medicare patients. At this time, users are encouraged to utilize the tool for data collection activities as it is a requirement of Medicare coverage for patients who receive the device for primary prevention of sudden cardiac arrest (patients without history of an arrest or arrhythmia).

Three individually recorded ICDA training sessions will be available for viewing and/or downloading from the ICDA site in the near future. Physicians and providers with dial-up Internet connections can download the recordings for viewing. QIOs can also download the recordings and transfer them to a CD for distribution to providers.

The three individual recorded sessions, which allow for subject matter-specific viewing, are as follows:

- ICDA 1.0 Installation and Setup
- ICDA 1.0 Abstraction Processes (New, Edit)
- ICDA 1.0 Import and Export.

In addition, the ICDA User's Guide, available from the ICDA site, provides detailed instructions on the installation, set-up, and utilization of the tool.

Location of Software and Documents

The following software and associated documents are accessed from the "Tools" option available from the ICDA Overview page:

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- Access the ICDA Version 1.0 Installation Instructions (pdf)
- Access the ICDA Installation (exe)
- User's Guide Download Instructions (pdf)
- ICDA User's Guide (exe)
- Using the ICDA User's Guide (pdf).

Complete, detailed installation instructions, including screen prints, are also provided in Chapter 2 of the *ICDA Version 1.0 User's Guide*.

Launching the ICDA Application

Users must launch the ICDA application using the shortcut/icon provided on their desktop, or through the ICDA Program Group in the Windows Start menu. Please refer to the ICDA User's Guide for instructions on setting up providers and users within the tool.

Please notify your internal point of contact if you have any questions. They may contact the QualityNet Help Desk if additional information and/or assistance are needed.

Additional Information

Additionally, more information about ICD claims may be found in MLN Matters articles MM3604 and MM4273, which you can find at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM3604.pdf> and <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM4273.pdf>, respectively.

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