

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



MLN Matters® Number: MM9934

Related Change Request (CR) #: CR 9934

Related CR Release Date: January 13, 2017

Effective Date: October 1, 2016

Related CR Transmittal #: R3691CP

Implementation Date: April 3, 2017

Changes to the Laboratory National Coverage Determination (NCD) Edit Software for April 2017

Provider Types Affected

This MLN Matters® Article is intended for physicians, other providers, and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

Provider Action Needed

Change Request (CR) 9934 informs MACs about the changes that will be included in the April 2017 quarterly release of the edit module for clinical diagnostic laboratory services. Make sure that your billing staffs are aware of these changes.

Background

The national coverage determinations (NCDs) for clinical diagnostic laboratory services were developed by the laboratory negotiated rulemaking committee and the final rule was published on November 23, 2001. Nationally uniform software was developed and incorporated in the Medicare shared systems so laboratory claims subject to one of the 23 NCDs (“Medicare National Coverage Determinations Manual,” Sections 190.12 - 190.34, available at https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/ncd103c1_Part3.pdf) were processed uniformly throughout the nation effective April 1, 2003.

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In accordance with Chapter 16, Section 120.2 of the “Medicare Claims Processing Manual,” the laboratory edit module is updated quarterly as necessary to reflect ministerial coding updates and substantive changes to the NCDs developed through the NCD process. This manual chapter is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/clm104c16.pdf>. The changes are a result of coding analysis decisions developed under the procedures for maintenance of codes in the negotiated NCDs and biannual updates of the ICD-10-CM codes. CR9934 lists numerous changes to the codes applicable to the various laboratory NCDs code lists for April 2017. Those changes are too numerous to repeat in this article, but the changes are detailed in the spreadsheet attachments to CR9934.

Additional Information

The official instruction, CR 9934, issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/2017Downloads/R3691CP.pdf>.

If you have any questions, please contact your MAC at their toll-free number. That number is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/Medicare-FFS-Compliance-Programs/Review-Contractor-Directory-Interactive-Map/>.

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