



Changes to the Laboratory National Coverage Determination (NCD) Edit Software for October 2020

MLN Matters Number: MM11889 **Revised**

Related Change Request (CR) Number: 11889

Related CR Release Date: **August 14, 2020**

Effective Date: October 1, 2020

Related CR Transmittal Number: **R10305NCD**

Implementation Date: October 5, 2020

Note: We revised this article to reflect the revised CR 11889 issued on August 14. The CR revision updated the codes in the CR spreadsheet for NCD 190.15. That change did not impact the article. In the article, we revised the CR release date, transmittal number, and the web address of the CR. All other information is the same.

PROVIDER TYPES AFFECTED

This MLN Matters Article is for physicians, providers and suppliers billing Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

PROVIDER ACTION NEEDED

This article announces the changes that will be included in the October 2020 quarterly release of the edit module for clinical diagnostic laboratory services. Please be sure your billing staffs are aware of these updates.

BACKGROUND

The laboratory negotiated rulemaking committee developed the National Coverage Determinations (NCDs) for clinical diagnostic laboratory services, and the final rule was published on November 23, 2001. Nationally uniform software was developed and incorporated in the Medicare shared systems, so that laboratory claims subject to one of the 23 NCDs (see Medicare National Coverage Determination, [Sections 190.12 - 190.34](#)) were processed uniformly throughout the nation, effective April 1, 2003.

In accordance with the Medicare Claims Processing Manual, [Chapter 16](#), Section 120.2, 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. 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 International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM) codes.

CR 11889 communicates requirements to Medicare's Shared System Maintainers (SSMs) and MACs, notifying them of changes to the laboratory edit module to update it for changes in laboratory NCD code lists for October 2020.

You may access the NCD spreadsheet included with CR 11889 at <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coverage/DeterminationProcess/downloads/October2020.zip>.

Note: MACs will not search their files to either retract payment for claims already paid or to retroactively pay claims unless you bring such claims to their attention.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The official instruction, CR 11889, issued to your MAC regarding this change, is available at <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/r10305cp.pdf>.

If you have questions, your MACs may have more information. Find their website at <http://go.cms.gov/MAC-website-list>.

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Date of Change	Description
November 30, 2020	Note: We revised this article to reflect the revised CR 11889 issued on August 14. The CR revision updated the codes in the CR spreadsheet for NCD 190.15. That change did not impact the article. In the article, we revised the CR release date, transmittal number, and the web address of the CR. All other information is the same.
July 10, 2020	Initial article released.

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