

Optometry Coding & Billing Alert

Reader Question: Find Your Medicare LCD in 1 Stop

Question: Where can I go to look up Medicare carriers- local coverage determinations? Also, is there an easy way to search a particular coverage topic on the Medicare site?

Georgia Subscriber

Answer: You should first try your individual carrier's Web site, but if you're looking for a quick reference to search and compare policies among multiple carriers, go to the Medicare coverage database, www.cms.hhs.gov/mcd/search.asp.

The page walks you through several steps to meet your goal. First, select whether you're looking for a national or a local coverage determination. If you choose local, you can search for articles and policies. Just check the boxes that apply.

Next, select a state or a contractor from the list provided. Then, scroll down and check off how you'd like to do your search. You can search by keyword, ICD-9 code, CPT/HCPCS code, coverage topic, and effective dates. After you've typed in your criteria, click -search now- and wait for the results to pop up.