

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

Intestine Transplant Facilities Still Must Have 10 Surgeries Per Year

CMS won't change its current rule for approving intestinal transplant facilities, the agency announced in National Coverage Decision memo 168. Medicare only allows intestinal and multi-visceral transplantation in facilities that have at least 10 intestinal transplants a year. Also, the facilities must have a one-year "actuarial survival rate" of at least 65 percent, meaning two-thirds of patients live a year after the procedure.

Providers had asked CMS to loosen the criteria for transplant facilities, but the agency reviewed the evidence and decided that the evidence supported the current policy.