

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

Understand The National Coverage Process

CMS is offering more clarity on how it decides which local coverage determinations (LCDs) will become national policy. The agency has issued two guidance documents that detail steps in the national coverage determination (NCD) process concerning CMS' determinations of whether an item or service is reasonable and necessary.

The guidance explains the factors CMS considers when initiating a Medicare NCD and determining whether to commission an external health technology assessment (HTA) to evaluate a new health care technology, the agency says in a release. You can find more information online at the CMS Web site www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicareCoverageGuideDocs/.