

# ICD 10 Coding Alert

## Cardiology Update: Note These Cardiology-Specific NCD Changes

### See which updates are coming in 2020.

Stay informed on recent updates to the to National Coverage Determinations (NCDs). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently released MLN Matters® 11491 and Change Request (CR) 11491, which includes nine changes total, and five of which are cardiology related.

Keep reading to understand how these updates will impact your claims.

### Become Familiar with Background for CR 11491

The changes to the ICD-10 2020 codes went into effect on Oct. 1, 2019, and the implementation date for local Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) was Dec. 18, 2019. The effective date of CR 11491 is April 1, 2020. The implementation date for shared system maintainer (SSM) edits is April 6, 2020.

**Understand the NCD change.** "This CR [11491] constitutes a maintenance update of ICD-10 conversions and other coding updates specific to NCDs," according to CMS. "These NCD coding changes are the result of newly available codes, coding revisions to NCDs released separately, or coding feedback received."

**Know Why NCDs are important.** NCDs outline to what extent Medicare will cover specific medical services, procedures, or devices on a national basis. Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) must follow NCDs. If an NCD does not exist or if the MAC sees a need to further define an NCD for a specific region, then a MAC will develop a local coverage determination (LCD). An LCD is a MAC's decision on whether a particular service or item is reasonable and necessary and whether it will be covered by Medicare within the specific region that particular MAC oversees.

**Bottom line:** You must be familiar with the NCDs and LCDs for the procedures and services your cardiologist performs if you want to submit clean claims.

"It's strongly advised to regularly review LCDs and NCDs for quarterly updates because this will assist you with accurate coding throughout the year," says **Christina Neighbors, MA, CPC, CCC**, coding quality auditor for Conifer Health Solutions, Coding Quality & Education Department, and member of AAPC's Certified Cardiology Coder steering committee. "Be mindful that annually in October, the update ICD-10 changes are announced for the following year."

### NCD 20.9 "Artificial Hearts and Related Devices"

You will see a few changes to NCD 20.9 "Artificial Hearts and Related Devices." Code I48.1 (Persistent atrial fibrillation) will be deleted from this NCD.

You should add the following ICD-10 codes to the covered codes list:

- I48.11 (Longstanding persistent atrial fibrillation)
- I48.19 (Other persistent atrial fibrillation)

**Don't miss:** If you look in the ICD-10 2020 manual, you can see that I48.1- now requires a fifth character. This change reflects the addition of new codes I48.11 and I48.19 that CMS added for 2020 to give you more specificity when reporting persistent atrial fibrillation. So, it makes sense that CMS would update NCD 20.9 to include these ICD-10 code updates.

### **NCD 20.9.1 "Ventricular Assist Devices"**

You will also see a few changes to NCD 20.9.1 "Ventricular Assist Devices." Code I48.1 will be deleted from the NCD, and you should add new ICD-10 2020 codes I48.11 and I48.19 to the covered codes list. This change is identical to the one you will see for NCD 20.9.

### **NCD 20.34 "Percutaneous Left-Atrial Appendage Closure (LAAC)"**

You'll want to mark down the following changes for NCD 20.34 "Percutaneous Left-Atrial Appendage Closure (LAAC)." First, I48.1 and I48.2 (Chronic atrial fibrillation) will be deleted from the NCD.

Then, you should add the following codes to the covered codes list in the NCD:

- I48.11
- I48.19
- I48.21 (Permanent atrial fibrillation)

Code I48.21 is a new code ICD-10 added for 2020. If you look in the ICD-10 2020 manual, you will see that I48.2- now requires a fifth character. So, adding new code I48.21 to NCD 20.34, along with new 2020 codes I48.11 and I48.19, merely reflects this change.

### **NCD 190.11 "Home (PT/INR) Monitoring for Anticoagulation Management"**

And, you don't want to miss the changes to NCD 190.11 "Home Prothrombin Time/International Normalized Ratio (PT/INR) Monitoring for Anticoagulation Management." As following the above patterns, CMS will delete I48.1 and I48.2 from NCD 190.11.

CMS will add a myriad of new codes to the covered codes list for this NCD. They are as follows:

- Subsegmental pulmonary embolism codes I26.93 and I26.94
- I48.11
- I48.19
- I48.21
- I80.241 (Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of right peroneal vein)-I80.243 (Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of peroneal vein, bilateral)
- I80.251 (Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of right calf muscular vein)-I80.253 (Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of calf muscular vein, bilateral)
- I82.451 (Acute embolism and thrombosis of right peroneal vein)-I82.453 (Acute embolism and thrombosis of peroneal vein, bilateral)
- Acute embolism and thrombosis of calf muscular vein codes I82.461-I82.463
- Chronic embolism and thrombosis of peroneal vein codes I82.551-I82.553
- Chronic embolism and thrombosis of calf muscular vein codes I82.561-I82.563

**Note:** All of the above codes are new options added in 2020. So, it stands to reason that CMS would update NCD 190.11 to reflect these new codes.

### **NCD 260.9 "Heart Transplants"**

Lastly, you will see some updates to NCD 260.9 "Heart Transplants." CMS will delete I48.1 and I48.2 from this NCD. And, CMS will add I48.11, I48.19, and I48.21 to the list of covered codes. This pattern is consistent with what we have seen above.