

Potential NCD Topics

■ Document Information

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Public Comment Period:

N/A - N/A

Previously, CMS invited the public's input concerning any items and services that may be inappropriately used (i.e., underused, overused, or misused) or provide minimal benefit in hospitals, clinics, emergency departments, doctors' offices, or in other healthcare settings.^[1] CMS also expressed interest in public input on items or services that might improve health outcomes and are not currently covered. CMS asked the public to be specific about items and services including surgical procedures, diagnostic tests or procedures, imaging or radiology services, lab tests, or durable medical equipment (such as glucose monitors or wheelchairs); treatments for diseases such as cancer, heart disease, kidney disease or gastrointestinal disease; or procedures such as orthopedic or eye procedures.

We reviewed and evaluated all of the submissions and believe that many of the suggested topics may be suitable candidates for further review. Some of these topics may have the potential to be subjects for further evaluation using literature reviews, claims based analyses, or as subjects for analysis in a National Coverage Determination (NCD). In considering topics for inclusion on our list we assessed our current policies and the availability or absence of evidence based guidelines and other pertinent medical literature. We also weighed their relevance to the scope of the Medicare benefits under Part A and Part B and the NCD authority and the potential impact on the Medicare program and on Medicare beneficiaries. In addition to the publicly submitted topics, we also added three topics of interest to CMS (intraaortic balloon pumps and paracorporeal ventricular assist devices, lap-band surgery for obesity and kyphoplasty).

The items and services added by CMS are based on our internal consideration of the medical literature, Medicare claims experience of the MACs, horizon scans of medical literature, and interactions with the stakeholder community at various scientific meetings. Below is the complete list of potential NCD topics. We look forward to continued public dialogue and input regarding CMS coverage policy.

Item or service	Current coverage policy
Abdominal CT	No NCD, local coverage policies in place
Appeals on behalf of the members by DME companies and vendors, when there is conflict of interest	The NCD statutory authority is separate from the appeals authority or conflict of interests.
Automatic implantable cardiac defibrillators	NCD/CED
Back surgery for recurring low back pain	NCD for <u>Lumbar Artificial Disc Replacement</u> , no LCDs
Conflicting information from vendors and physical therapists evaluations	We believe this topic is too broad to support the development of an NCD at this time
Colorectal cancer screening	Coverage for all Medicare beneficiaries
CT pulmonary angiography for patients with suspected pulmonary embolism	No NCD, local coverage policies in place
Endoscopy for gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD)	NCD + LCD guidelines
Epidural and transforaminal injections	No NCD, local coverage policies in place
Genetic testing and local coverage	NCD for genetic testing for warfarin response, LCDs for some specific diseases or conditions

decisions	
Implantable central nervous system stimulators for intractable pain	NCD - Covers dorsal column (also called spinal cord) and depth (also called deep) brain stimulators; and peripheral nerve stimulators
Knee MRI for likely arthritic condition	No NCD, local coverage policies in place
Lap-band surgery for obesity	NCD
Left ventricular assist devices	NCD/CED
Lung volume reduction surgery	NCD
Misuse and overuse of nonemergent ambulance transports to ERs and dialysis facilities	Recent LCDs define non emergent use of ambulances.
Misuse and overuse of the hospital outpatient settings for IV infusions and injectables	Covered under revenue codes and under some specific NCDs and LCDs
Negative-pressure wound therapy (NPWT)	No NCD, local coverage policies in place
Neuroimaging for headaches	No NCD, local coverage policies in place
Nonemergent percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA) and stents	NCD
Nuclear stress tests for cardiac related symptoms	No NCD, local coverage policies in place
Intraaortic balloon pump and paracorporeal ventricular assist device for cardiogenic shock, high risk PCI and acute MI	No NCD, local coverage policies in place
Physical/occupational /speech therapy in outpatient settings including long term care facilities	No NCD, local coverage policies in place
Positron emission tomography (PET) scan for Alzheimer's Disease	NCD/CED
Power wheelchairs (vendors misrepresenting the facts, unskilled physical therapists and physician lack of knowledge regarding criteria)	NCD
Prostate-specific antigen (PSA) -based screening	Covered under statute
Proton beam therapy for prostate cancer	No NCD, local coverage policies in place
Surgery for low risk prostate cancers	No NCD or LCD
Underuse of physical therapy and other	LCDs provide guidelines for physical therapy, multiple LCDs on noninvasive treatments.

non-invasive therapy for back pain	
Vertebroplasty and kyphoplasty	No NCD, local coverage policies in place
Whole genome profiling	No NCD or LCD
Wound center debridement vs. active wound management and frequent non-medically necessary debridement for very small wounds	LCDs provide guidelines for wound debridement

[1] <http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/medicare-coverage-document-details.aspx?MCDId=19>

[2011 Potential NCDs](#)

[2008 Potential NCDs](#)

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