



DATE: December 22, 2005

TO: Medicare Carrier Medical Directors

FROM: Model Local Coverage Determination (LCD) Work Group for Cardiac Computed Tomography (CCT) and Computed Tomography Coronary Angiography (CTCA), Co-Chairs: Joseph V. Messer, MD, MACC and Samuel Wann, MD, MACC

RE: Model LCD for CCT and CTCA

---

For the past six months a Work Group has dedicated itself to creating a model LCD for CCT and CTCA to properly address the advancements in CT technology for the use of Computed Tomographic Angiography of the heart and coronary arteries for cardiac assessment. We are pleased to distribute the model LCD to you as a resource during this rapidly changing time.

CMS encourages the use of high level evidence-based indications. New technology, however, often lacks the highest level of supporting evidence, requiring the use of expert consensus in affording patient access to promising new technologies. With the advancements of CT, several associations are committed to fostering the new technology and ensuring its appropriate utilization for designated indications by qualified physicians.

The model LCD was prepared as a collaborative effort by the American College of Cardiology (ACC) Carrier Advisory Committee (CAC), American College of Radiology (ACR), American Society of Nuclear Cardiology (ASNC), North American Society for Cardiac Imaging (NASCI) Society of Cardiac Angiography and Intervention (SCAI) and Society of Cardiovascular CT (SCCT). Additional contributors include Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield Medicare Services and United Healthcare.

The model LCD incorporates the recently created Category III CPT Codes for CCT and CTCA and training standards for the physician and technician to ensure quality, preventing untrained professionals from performing the diagnostic test. Throughout the process, a goal of the Work Group was to develop a document that would help establish standards of care for the new technology and not create over or inappropriate utilization.

The enclosed document is a living, evolving document. It is anticipated that future additions and revisions to the LCD will occur as higher levels of evidence-based studies become available. We hope that you will find this an appropriate model for creating your individual contractor LCD.