

TO: All Providers

FROM: CareFirst of Maryland, Inc., Medicare Part A Medical Review

DATE: August 7, 2003

SUBJECT: Medicare Coverage Database

In an effort to ensure that all beneficiaries and providers have easy access to Medicare's local coverage, coding, and Medical Review related billing rules, CMS has developed the Medicare Coverage Database. The Coverage Database currently houses all contractors' Local Medical Review Policies (LMRPs). This database may be accessed through the following URL: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/mcd/> . The www.lmrp.net website is no longer available to view LMRPs.

The Medicare Coverage Database allows an easier search for LMRPs, National Coverage Determinations (NCDs), National Coverage Analyses (NCAs), and Coverage/Coding articles.

Please be aware that the National Coverage Analyses is a tracking tool and not the final decision. The National Coverage Analyses (NCA) includes numerous documents that support the national coverage determination process. They include tracking sheets to inform the public of the issues under consideration and the status of the review. An NCA includes information about and the results of the Medicare Coverage Advisory Committee (MCAC) meetings, technology assessments, and the decision memoranda that announce the intent of CMS to issue an NCD. The NCA is a tracking tool and should not be construed as the final decision until it is published as a National Coverage Determination.

Prior to a National Coverage Decision taking effect, CMS will first issue a manual instruction, program memorandum, CMS ruling, or Federal Register Notice giving specific directions to the claims-processing contractors.

Should you have any questions contact your provider representative at 1-866-488-0545 or Trish Neal, Utilization Review Specialist at 1-410-561-4041 or patricia.neal@carefirst.com .

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