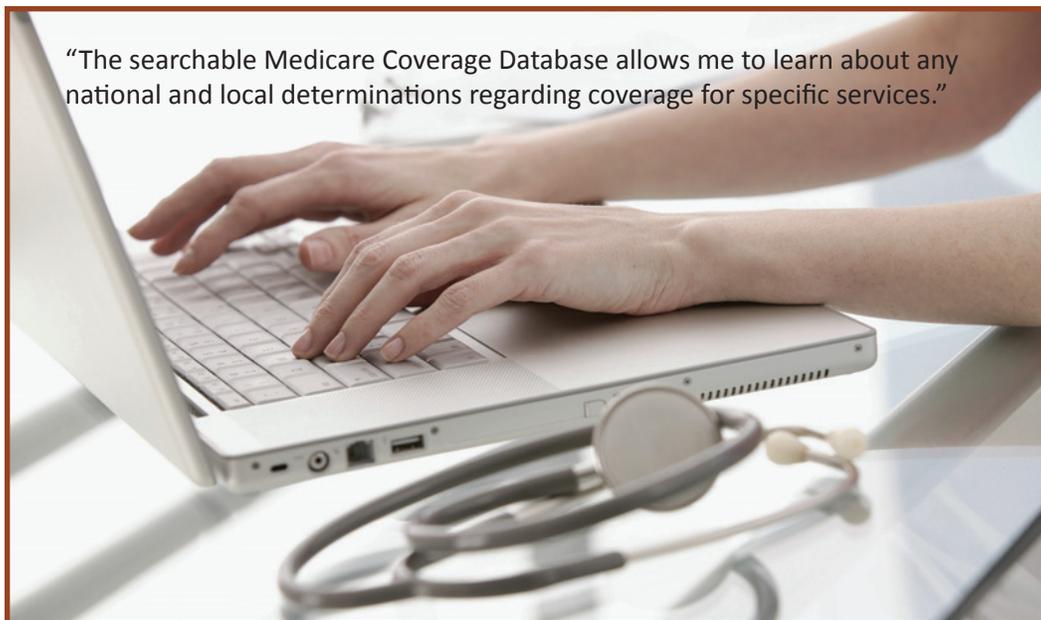


DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



How to Use The Medicare Coverage Database



"The searchable Medicare Coverage Database allows me to learn about any national and local determinations regarding coverage for specific services."

To Learn More...

If you find this How To booklet helpful, then you may wish to review the other booklets in this series. To locate these booklets, go to the MLN Publications page at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/index.html> and search for items containing the words "how to."

<http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database>

Contents

INTRODUCTION	1
What is the Medicare Coverage Database (MCD)?	1
Why would a Health Care Professional, Supplier, or Provider Use the Coverage Database?	1
Background: Medicare Coverage and Coverage Determinations	1
How Up-to-Date is the MCD?	1
How to Locate the MCD	1
USING THE MCD	2
Navigation Bar Options	2
SEARCH	3
Using the Quick Search Feature	3
MCD Help	7
Using the Advanced Search Feature	8
National Coverage Documents	8
Keyword Searches	9
Local Coverage Documents	9
INDEXES	10
Using the Indexes Feature	10
National Coverage Indexes	10
Local Coverage Indexes	11
REPORTS	12
Using the Reports Feature	12
National Coverage Reports	12
Local Coverage Reports	12
DOWNLOADS	14
Using the Downloads Feature	14
Tips about MCD Downloads	15
RESOURCES	16

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INTRODUCTION

What is the Medicare Coverage Database (MCD)?

The searchable MCD contains all Medicare National Coverage Determinations (NCDs), National Coverage Analyses (NCAs), Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs), and local articles. NCAs include proposed NCD decisions. The MCD also includes Coding Analyses for Labs (CALs), Medicare Evidence Development & Coverage Advisory Committee (MEDCAC) proceedings, Technology Assessments (TAs), and Medicare coverage guidance documents. Definitions of these terms are found on page four of this booklet.

Why Would a Health Care Professional, Supplier, or Provider Use the Coverage Database?

All health care providers should be knowledgeable about Medicare coverage prior to providing services or items to Medicare beneficiaries. Because extensive coverage information is readily available, CMS presumes that health care providers have the requisite knowledge of likely Medicare denial of payment. If a provider has not given a beneficiary proper advance notice in writing that Medicare will likely deny payment and Medicare denies a claim for a service as not reasonable and necessary or as constituting custodial care, the provider will be held financially liable. However, if a provider gives the beneficiary proper written advance notice that Medicare will likely deny payment for the service or item and indicates this action on the claim, the beneficiary may be held liable.

The MCD is intended for use by Medicare Contractors, providers, and other health care industry professionals. People with Medicare, family members, and caregivers should visit the official U.S. Government site for people with Medicare for the latest information on Medicare enrollment, benefits, and other helpful tools. That information is located at <http://www.Medicare.gov> on the Internet.

Background: Medicare Coverage and Coverage Determinations

The Social Security Act (the Act) is the primary authority for all coverage provisions and subsequent policies. Medicare coverage is limited to items and services that are reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of an illness or injury, and within the scope of a Medicare benefit category. In certain cases, CMS deems it appropriate to develop an NCD for an item or service to be applied on a national basis for all Medicare beneficiaries meeting the criteria for coverage. Medicare Contractors develop LCDs when there is no NCD or when there is a need to further define an NCD.

How Up-to-Date is the MCD?

CMS updates the national coverage information in the MCD in real time, except the national coverage download, which is updated weekly, and local coverage information which is updated on a weekly basis, usually on Thursdays. Subscribers to the CMS Coverage electronic mailing list receive weekly notification when national coverage documents are updated. In addition, you should subscribe to your Medicare Fee-For-Service (FFS) Contractor electronic mailing list in order to be notified of new or changing LCDs.

How to Locate the MCD

The MCD is located at <http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database> on the CMS website. The MCD is also one of the top links on the CMS website home page.

USING THE MCD

Figure 1 displays a portion of the MCD Overview page.



Figure 1: MCD Overview Page

Navigation Bar Options

The navigation bar appears at the top of each MCD page and identifies multiple ways to locate and view data. Selected navigation bar options are shown in orange.

Advanced Search

This option allows you to explore national and local coverage documents using a variety of criteria such as keyword, diagnosis/procedure code, and date. Note that the MCD Overview page also features a Quick Search option.

Indexes

The Indexes provide pre-defined lists of national and local coverage documents, such as:

- NCDs by chapter/section and alphabetically;
- LCDs and articles by contractor, state, and alphabetically;
- Local coverage contacts and links to Medicare FFS Contractor websites; and
- Open or closed NCAs.

Reports

This feature provides reports of national and local coverage data, such as what's new in national coverage, LCD reports, and annual reports.

Downloads

Download complete sets of LCDs or NCDs using this option.

Basket

The basket tool allows you to view, print, or e-mail saved documents from a search.

SEARCH

The Search features are useful for finding a particular coverage document or a document with certain key words. This section explains how to use the Quick Search feature and also how to perform an Advanced Search.

Using the Quick Search Feature

Figure 2 displays the Quick Search feature which is located on the right of the MCD Overview page. You may search by document ID or by document type.

- 1 The document ID search option provides a quick way to execute a search for a specific determination. After you enter the document ID, you can enter the date of service or leave it blank, then click Search by ID. If the date of service is left blank, you will receive the most recent version of the LCD. This type of search is efficient because it returns only the document needed.

Helpful Hint: Because you must know the exact ID, searching by document ID is most helpful for a previously-referenced document where you have saved the document number and are subsequently referencing it to determine if any changes have occurred. The document ID can be found at the beginning of a coverage determination. When performing an ID search, the entire ID must be specified, including any letters or dashes. Note that MEDCAC, TA, and Medicare Coverage Documents cannot be searched for by document ID.

QUICK SEARCH

An asterisk (*) indicates a required field.

YOU MAY SEARCH BY ID:

1 *Document ID: **SEARCH BY ID**

2 OR BY DOCUMENT TYPE:

National and Local Coverage Documents
 National Coverage Documents
 Local Coverage Documents

*Select Geographic Area/Region:
 View county listings for split states
View region descriptions

*Select One or Both:
AND/OR

Need more search power? Try Advanced Search

RESET SELECTION CRITERIA

SEARCH BY TYPE

Figure 2: MCD Overview Page Quick Search Feature

- 2 If the document ID is unknown, it is possible to search by document type using several criteria.
 - Select the option for:
 - Both National and Local Coverage Documents (the site defaults to this selection); or
 - National Coverage Documents; or
 - Local Coverage Documents.
 - Select a geographic area/region from the dropdown menu if searching for a local coverage document or both national and local coverage documents. In addition to states, CMS regions can be selected. This option does not appear if searching for NCDs only, as the geographic area is not needed for this search.
 - Insert a keyword or keywords. Keyword searches are not case sensitive.
 - If searching for local coverage documents, you may enter a CPT/HCPCS code instead of or in addition to any keywords.

National coverage documents are grouped under the following headings:

- **NCDs;**
- **NCAs;**
- **CALs;**
- **MEDCAC Meetings;**
- **TAs;** and
- **Medicare Coverage Documents.**

NCDs may include links to Medicare claims processing transmittals containing Claims Processing Instructions (CPIs).

If a search includes LCDs, the following document types would also be displayed:

- **Articles;** and
- **LCDs.**

Articles contain coding or other guidelines that complement an LCD.

LCDs are decisions by Medicare FFS Contractors whether to cover a particular service in their jurisdictional area in accordance with §1862(a)(1) of the Social Security Act. LCDs may be developed in the absence of a specific statute, regulation, national coverage policy, national coding policy, or as an adjunct to a national coverage policy.

To revise the search criteria, click the Modify Your Search link or select the Back to Overview and Quick Search link at the top of the page. Click New Search to delete the selection criteria from the previous search and begin a new search.

Quick Search results include only currently-in-effect documents. Use the Advanced Search function to search for documents for a specific date or time period.

Helpful Hint: The MCD Archive Database houses Local Coverage Documents (LCDs) that have been retired for more than 2 years (i.e., an ending date or revision ending date older than 2 years). Also stored in the MCD Archive Database are Draft LCDs that have been released to Final LCDs at least 6 months prior. Please visit the MCD Archive site to view them.

National Coverage Determinations (NCDs) describe the circumstances for Medicare coverage nationwide for a specific medical service, procedure, or device. NCDs generally outline the conditions for which a service is considered to be covered, or not covered, under §1862(a)(1) or other applicable provisions of the Social Security Act (i.e., a determination as to whether the service is reasonable and necessary).

National Coverage Analyses (NCAs) Numerous documents 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, information about MEDCAC meetings, Technology Assessments, and Decision Memoranda that announce CMS intention to issue an NCD. These documents, along with the compilation of medical and scientific information currently available, any Food and Drug Administration (FDA) safety and efficacy data, clinical trial information, etc., provide the rationale behind the evidence-based NCDs.

Coding Analyses for Labs (CALs)

CALs is an abbreviated process, similar to the NCD process, for making changes to the coding component of the negotiated laboratory NCDs. The process is used for adjusting the list of covered (or non-covered) ICD-9-CM diagnosis codes and coding guidance in the NCDs when there is a question regarding whether the code flows from the narrative indications in the NCD.

MEDCAC Meetings

The MEDCAC is used to supplement CMS' internal expertise and to ensure an unbiased and contemporary consideration of state of the art technology and science. MEDCAC members have background, education, and expertise in a wide variety of scientific, clinical and other related fields.

Technology Assessments (TAs)

Under an Interagency Agreement with CMS, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) contracts with their Evidence-based Practice Centers (EPCs) to develop systematic reviews, health technology assessments, and other reports at the request of CMS. The MCD includes final and occasional draft TAs.

Medicare Coverage Documents

This section includes documents such as the Compendia Index and the Guidance Index.

Figure 3 displays a portion of the Quick Search results after selecting the National Coverage Documents search option, entering cardiac as the keyword, and clicking Search By Type to begin the search.

The screenshot shows the search results interface. At the top, it says 'Your Search Results' with a count of '[30 Records]'. Below this, it lists the search criteria: 'Your Selection Criteria Were: Document Types: NCA, CAL, NCD, MEDCAC, TA, MCD; Keyword: Cardiac; Keyword Lookup Type: Title search; Keyword Search Type: All Words'. There are buttons for 'Modify Your Search', 'New Search', '0 Document(s) Selected', 'Print Selected', 'Add to Basket', and 'Select All Records'. A search icon indicates a key article, and there are 'Expand All' and 'Collapse All' buttons. Below the search options is a section for 'National Coverage Determinations (NCDs)' with '[8 Records]'. It shows 'Page 1 of 1' and 'View Items Per Page: 25'. A table lists NCD sections and titles, with checkboxes for 'SELECT ALL'. Three callouts are present: '1' points to the sorting triangles in the table headers, '2' points to the 'SELECT ALL' checkbox for the second row, and '3' points to the 'Print Selected' button.

NCD SECTION	NCD TITLE	SELECT ALL
10.6	Anesthesia in CARDIAC Pacemaker Surgery	<input type="checkbox"/>
20.25	CARDIAC Catheterization Performed in Other than a Hospital Setting	<input type="checkbox"/>
20.16	CARDIAC Output Monitoring by Thoracic Electrical Bioimpedance (TEB)	<input type="checkbox"/>
20.8.1	CARDIAC Pacemaker Evaluation Services	<input type="checkbox"/>
20.8	CARDIAC Pacemakers	<input type="checkbox"/>

Figure 3: Quick Search Results

Results are displayed in a list format. Select Expand All to view all of the results. Select + or - to expand or collapse the results for a document type. To reorder the results, use the sorting triangles for each column. These expand and sort options are available on most search result screens.

- 1 To view a coverage determination of interest, click on the title. If a document contains Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) or Current Dental Terminology (CDT) codes, you must accept the American Medical Association (AMA), American Dental Association (ADA), and National Uniform Billing Committee (NUBC) User Agreements before you can view the document. The AMA/ADA/NUBC User Agreement appears once per Internet session, the first time you view a document that may contain CPT or CDT codes. You must accept the agreement to view documents with CPT or CDT codes.
- 2 To add an item to your basket, select the checkbox in the right column corresponding to the document. Then, select Add to Basket. To view the items in your basket, click the Basket option in the navigation bar.
- 3 To print document(s), select the checkbox in the right column corresponding to the document(s). Click Print Selected.

Helpful Hint: Items in your basket are lost once the browser is closed. Your basket will be empty each time the browser is restarted. Select the E-mail Basket button to e-mail the contents of your basket to yourself for future reference.

Add to Basket Function

You can add items to the basket from a list of search results.

Figure 4 shows the option to select documents and add them to the basket.

Modify Your Search | New Search
🔑 = indicates a Key Article
Expand All | Collapse All

0 Document(s) Selected **Print Selected** **Add to Basket**
Select All Records

National Coverage Determinations (NCDs) [8 Records]

Page 1 of 1 View Items Per Page: 25

NCD SECTION	NCD TITLE	SELECT ALL
10.6	Anesthesia in CARDIAC Pacemaker Surgery	<input type="checkbox"/>
20.25	CARDIAC Catheterization Performed in Other than a Hospital Setting	<input type="checkbox"/>

Figure 4: Add to Basket Function

To view the items in your basket, click the Basket option in the navigation bar.



Empty Basket Function

To empty the entire basket, click the Empty Basket button.

- 1 To remove one or more documents, select the checkbox next to the document to be removed and then check the Remove Only Selected Documents box at the top of the page.
- 2 Click on the Empty Basket button to remove the items.

Figure 5 shows the empty basket function.

0 Document(s) Selected **Print Basket** **Email Basket** **Empty Basket** **2**
 Print List of Selected Documents Email Only Selected Documents Remove Only Selected Documents

National Coverage Determinations (NCD) [3 Records]

Page 1 of 1 View Items Per Page: 25

NCD SECTION	NCD TITLE	SELECT ALL
10.6	Anesthesia in Cardiac Pacemaker Surgery	<input type="checkbox"/>
20.25	Cardiac Catheterization Performed in Other than a Hospital Setting	<input type="checkbox"/>
20.16	Cardiac Output Monitoring by Thoracic Electrical Bioimpedance (TEB)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Figure 5: Empty Basket Function

E-mail Basket Function

To e-mail the entire basket, click the E-mail Basket button.

- 1 To e-mail a document from the basket, select the checkbox next to the document to be e-mailed and then check the E-mail Only Selected Documents box at the top of the page.
- 2 Click on the E-mail Basket button to e-mail the items.

Figure 6 shows the e-mail basket function.

NCD SECTION	NCD TITLE	SELECT ALL
10.6	Anesthesia in Cardiac Pacemaker Surgery	<input type="checkbox"/>
20.25	Cardiac Catheterization Performed in Other than a Hospital Setting	<input type="checkbox"/>
20.16	Cardiac Output Monitoring by Thoracic Electrical Bioimpedance (TEB)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Figure 6: E-mail Basket Function

Print Basket Function

To print the entire basket, click the Print Basket button.

- 1 To print a document from the basket, select the checkbox next to the document to be printed, check the Print Only Selected Documents box at the top of the page.
- 2 Click on the Print Basket button to print the items.

Figure 7 shows the print basket function.

NCD SECTION	NCD TITLE	SELECT ALL
10.6	Anesthesia in Cardiac Pacemaker Surgery	<input type="checkbox"/>
20.25	Cardiac Catheterization Performed in Other than a Hospital Setting	<input type="checkbox"/>
20.16	Cardiac Output Monitoring by Thoracic Electrical Bioimpedance (TEB)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Figure 7: Print Basket Function

MCD Help

The MCD offers help links located at the top right corner of each MCD web page beside the navigation bar. Page Help offers helpful information for the particular module. Contextual Help offers section-specific help when you hover over a section of a page. It can be turned on by clicking the Contextual Help is Off link.

Using the Advanced Search Feature

The Advanced Search feature provides a variety of selection criteria beyond the Quick Search option for searching the database by document type. When a search for national coverage documents, local coverage documents, or both is selected, additional document type criteria options will appear. The document types selected in this step will cause variations in the selection criteria that appear to complete the search. Figure 8 shows the Advanced Search feature when searching for a national coverage document.

The screenshot displays the 'Search by Document Type' interface. At the top, a blue header reads 'Search by Document Type'. Below it, a note states 'An asterisk (*) indicates a required field'. The main section is titled '*What document types do you want to search for?' and includes a sub-note: 'Please choose at least one document type'. A red box highlights a link labeled 'View coverage descriptions'. To the right, there are radio buttons for 'National and Local Coverage Documents', 'National Coverage Documents' (which is selected), and 'Local Coverage Documents'. Below these are several checked checkboxes for document types: 'All National Coverage', 'National Coverage Analyses (NCAs)', 'Coding Analyses for Labs (CALs)', 'National Coverage Determinations (NCDs)', 'Medicare Evidence Development & Coverage Advisory Committee (MEDCAC) Meetings', 'Technology Assessments (TAs)', and 'Medicare Coverage Documents (MCDs)'. At the bottom right of this section is a 'Back to Top' link. The second section is titled 'Additional Filters (Optional)' and includes a note: 'Note: When specifying multiple criteria, only records meeting ALL criteria are returned. If there is more than one applicable version, then only the latest will be returned'. It lists four unchecked checkboxes: 'Keyword(s)', 'NCA/CAL Status', 'Benefit Category', and 'Date Criteria'. A 'Back to Top' link is also present at the bottom right of this section. Two red circles with numbers '1' and '2' are overlaid on the left side of the screenshot, pointing to the 'View coverage descriptions' link and the 'Additional Filters' section, respectively.

Figure 8: Advanced Search Feature

1 Select the document types to include in the search. Click the View coverage descriptions link for coverage document type descriptions.

2 Optional additional filters may also be selected to include in the search.

Helpful Hint: To select multiple options from a criteria list, hold down the Ctrl key and select options with the mouse or hold down the Shift key and select criteria with the down arrow on the keyboard. When multiple criteria are entered, only records meeting all criteria are returned.

National Coverage Documents

National coverage documents can be searched by the following document types:

- NCAs;
- CALs;
- NCDs;
- MEDCAC Meetings;
- TAs; and
- Medicare Coverage Documents.

Additional national coverage document filters include:

- Keyword;
- NCA/CAL Status;
- Benefit Category (a dropdown menu offers choices such as cardiac rehabilitation programs or antigens); and
- Date Criteria.

Keyword Searches

Use the Keyword search option on the Advanced Search page to search for national and local coverage documents containing a specific word or words. Most, but not all, fields in a document are searched in an entire document search. To see which fields are excluded, please look at the MCD page Help link on the Advanced Search page.

Search By Keyword

1. Select whether you would like to search for the keyword when it appears just in the title of the document or anywhere in the entire document.
2. The drop down menu allows users to specify how they would like the search to work. An Exact Phrase search will return documents that contain only what is entered as the keyword, in the order the words were entered. (e.g., searching for cardiac pump will return only documents with cardiac pump.) An All Words search will return only documents that contain all the words entered, regardless of the order in which they were entered. (e.g., searching for cardiac pump will return only documents that have at least once occurrence of cardiac and one occurrence of pump.) An Any Words search will return documents that contain any of the words entered. (e.g. if the document contains either cardiac or pump it will be returned.)

Local Coverage Documents

Searches for local coverage documents can be conducted by type of article and/or policy status.

An Advanced Search for local coverage documents requires that a geographic and/or specific contractor type or name be selected. When selecting a state that has been split into multiple regions (such as California), click the View county listing for split states link to see the counties that make up each region. Use the checkboxes to select which types of local coverage documents to search for (all documents are selected by default) and whether to included draft LCDs in the search (draft LCDs are not included by default).

Figure 9 shows the following additional filters that may be selected when searching for a local coverage document:

- Keyword;
- CPT/HCPCS code;
- ICD-9-CM code; and
- Date Criteria.

Additional Filters [Back to Top](#)

*Select at least one of the following filters:
Note: When specifying multiple criteria, only records meeting ALL criteria are returned. If there is more than one applicable version, then only the latest will be returned

Keyword(s)

CPT/HCPCS

ICD-9

Enter an ICD-9 Diagnosis Code: [Code Lookup](#)

Enter an ICD-9 Diagnosis Code Range: -

Date Criteria

Figure 9: Local Coverage Document Additional Filters

Helpful Hint: If the ICD-9 code is unknown, click on the Code Lookup link to search for a specific code by ICD-9 description keyword.

Use one of the following to execute another search by returning to the Advanced Search:

- Click the Back to Advanced Search link from the top of the page. The selection criteria from the previous search will be retained.

- Click the Modify Your Search link. The selection criteria from the previous search will be retained.
- Click the New Search link. The selection criteria from the previous search will not be retained.

INDEXES

The Indexes feature provides a quick method of finding information such as:

- Which NCAs are open or closed for comment;
- LCDs and articles by contractor or state; and
- Local coverage contacts.

Using the Indexes Feature

Select the Indexes button in the top navigation bar to begin using the Indexes. Then, expand the index lists to view national or local coverage. Figure 10 shows a portion of the expanded options that appear when national coverage indexes are selected.

National Coverage	
National Coverage Analyses (NCAs)	[194 Records]
Open NCAs	[6 Records]
Closed NCAs	[188 Records]
NCAs Open WITH Public Comments	[6 Records]
Coding Analyses for Labs (CALs)	[37 Records]
Closed CALs	[37 Records]
National Coverage Determinations (NCDs)	[327 Records]
NCDs Listed Alphabetically	[327 Records]
NCDs by Chapter/Section	[327 Records]
Lab NCDs	[23 Records]
Meetings And Assessments	[136 Records]
Medicare Evidence Development & Coverage Advisory Committee (MEDCAC) Meetings	[57 Records]
Technology Assessments	[79 Records]

Figure 10: Indexes Feature

National Coverage Indexes

NCAs

The index includes open and closed analyses and the public comments relating to these. Select the Open for Public Comment link to view NCAs that are currently open for comment. Select the Comment button beside the applicable NCA title to submit a comment.

CALs

The index lists open and closed lab analyses alphabetically.

NCDs

CMS provides an alphabetical index as well as an index organized by Chapter/Section of the “Medicare National Coverage Determinations Manual” (Internet-Only Publication 100-03, Parts 1 through 4). All lab determinations from Chapter 1, Part 3 of this manual are also listed alphabetically under labs.

Meetings And Assessments

MEDCAC topics are displayed by meeting date. TAs are displayed alphabetically by title in the TA index.

Medicare Coverage Documents

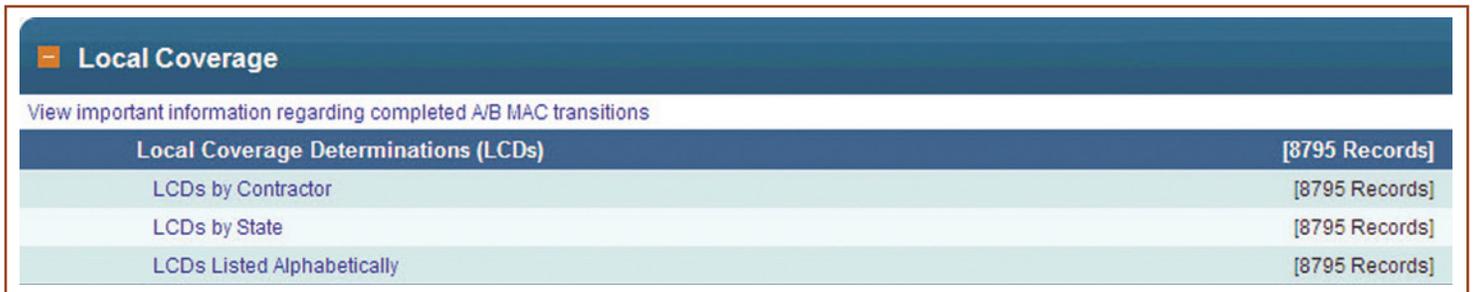
This section includes documents such as:

- The Compendia Index with the various compendia used by CMS; and
- The Guidance Index with links to Coverage and Analysis Group (CAG) Guidance documents.

Local Coverage Indexes

LCDs

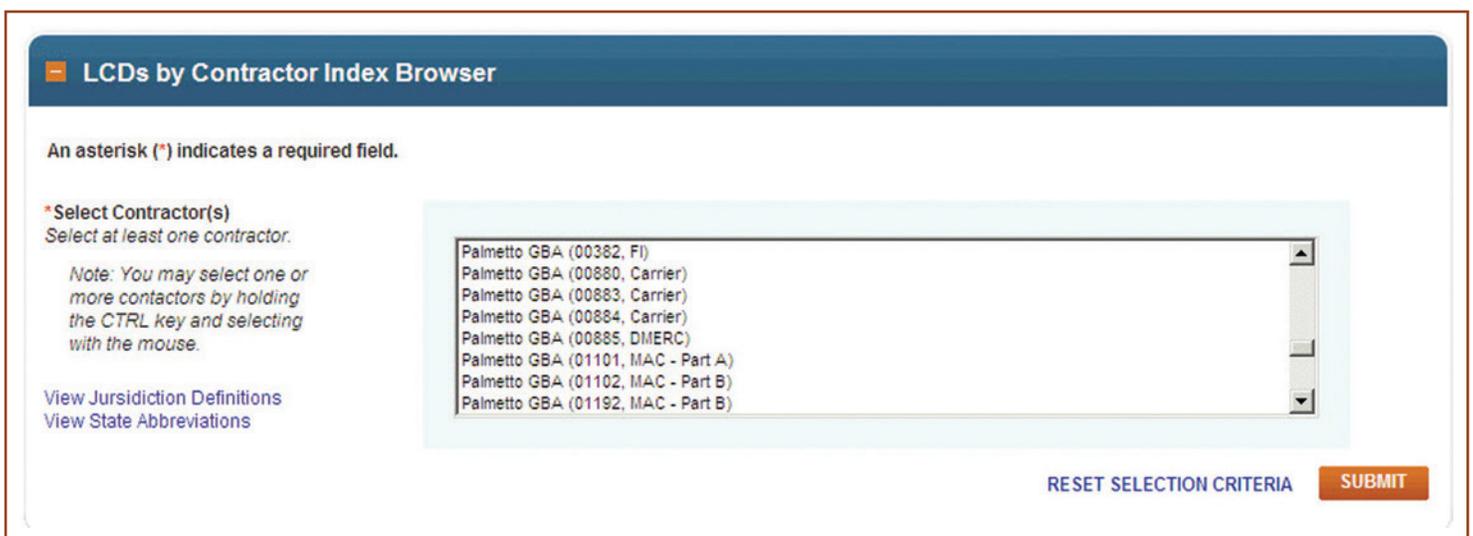
Figure 11 shows the local indexes options for obtaining a list of all LCDs by contractor, state, or alphabetically.



Local Coverage	
View important information regarding completed A/B MAC transitions	
Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs)	[8795 Records]
LCDs by Contractor	[8795 Records]
LCDs by State	[8795 Records]
LCDs Listed Alphabetically	[8795 Records]

Figure 11: Local Indexes Options

Figure 12 shows the screen when searching for LCDs by contractor. Make a selection from the list of contractors and then click Submit. Links to jurisdiction definitions and state abbreviations are also available.



An asterisk (*) indicates a required field.

***Select Contractor(s)**
Select at least one contractor.

Note: You may select one or more contractors by holding the CTRL key and selecting with the mouse.

[View Jurisdiction Definitions](#)
[View State Abbreviations](#)

Palmetto GBA (00382, FI)
Palmetto GBA (00880, Carrier)
Palmetto GBA (00883, Carrier)
Palmetto GBA (00884, Carrier)
Palmetto GBA (00885, DMERC)
Palmetto GBA (01101, MAC - Part A)
Palmetto GBA (01102, MAC - Part B)
Palmetto GBA (01192, MAC - Part B)

[RESET SELECTION CRITERIA](#) [SUBMIT](#)

Figure 12: LCDs by Contractor Index

Helpful Hint: When selecting LCDs or Articles by contractor, it is possible to select multiple contractors by holding the CTRL key and selecting the contractors of choice with the mouse.

Articles

An index of articles may also be obtained by contractor, state, or alphabetically.

Contacts

This index features local coverage contacts by type of Medicare FFS Contractor. Click on a link to view an alphabetical listing of contractor contact information, as well as to identify the Medical Director for each contractor. This section also features a list of contractor websites.

REPORTS

The user may refine and customize the reports available through the MCD by date and other criteria. The reports are excellent tools for finding only coverage determinations that are applicable to your needs.

Using the Reports Feature

Figure 13 displays a portion of the initial Reports screen.



Figure 13: Reports Feature

Highlights of several reports are provided below:

National Coverage Reports

What's New Report

This report lists NCDs, NCAs, CALs, MEDCAC meetings, TAs, and Medicare Coverage Documents posted in the last week, 30, 60, or 90 days according to your specification. When the report is initially selected, a listing of all document types posted in the last week will appear based on the default setting. For documents posted in the last 30, 60, or 90 days, change the criteria from the drop down menu and re-run the report.

Annual Report

This report is a list of NCAs, CALs, and/or NCDs by year.

Local Coverage Reports

What's New Report

Use this report to view the list of local coverage documents that:

- 1) Have changed for a particular database update, or
- 2) Are new for a particular database update.

Helpful Hint: Clicking on the MCD Page Help link from any of the Reports web pages provides instructions on how to custom design reports.

LCD Status Report

Figure 14 shows the screen when selecting the LCD status report option. Use this report to determine the level and type of activity and the number of final documents for each contractor for a designated time period. Select the year to view either by month or quarter. You may also search by region, state, contractor type, or contractor name.

LCDs Status Report Browser

An asterisk (*) indicates a required field.

*Select Year and Quarter/Month to View: 2012 Full Year

Select one of the following filters (optional):

Note: You may select more than one Region, State, Contractor Type or Contractor by Name by holding the CTRL key and selecting with your mouse.

Region(s)
View region descriptions
Select Region(s)
Region I
Region II
Region III

State(s)
View county listings for split states
Select State(s)
Alabama
Alaska
American Samoa

Contractor Type(s)
Select Type(s)
Carrier
DME MAC
FI

Contractor(s) by Name
Palmetto GBA (01101, MAC - Part A)
Palmetto GBA (01102, MAC - Part B)
Palmetto GBA (01192, MAC - Part B)
Palmetto GBA (01201, MAC - Part A)

RESET SELECTION CRITERIA SUBMIT

Figure 14: LCD Status Report

Draft LCD Status Report

The default is to view draft LCDs for all contractors. Narrow a search by selecting one or more contractor types, or one or more individual contractors.

LCD Last Updated Report

Use this report to see when an LCD was last updated and for what reason(s).

Article Status Report

This report indicates the status of a Medicare Contractor's articles based on the year and other criteria.

Self-Administered Drug (SAD) Exclusion List Report

The report lists drugs determined by a contractor to be usually self-administered and, therefore, excluded from Medicare Part B coverage by law.

DOWNLOADS

Using this feature you can download Access databases containing all the local coverage documents (Articles and LCDs) or the national coverage documents (NCDs and Public Comments for NCAs/CALs) used by the Medicare Coverage Database website.

The download files include data dictionaries that explain the content and usage of each database.

Note that downloading may take some time, as much as six hours, depending on the speed of the Internet connection.

Using the Downloads Feature

To access the Downloads feature, click Downloads in the top navigation bar. Accept the ADA/AMA/NUBC license agreements to proceed. Figure 15 displays a portion of the Downloads web page.

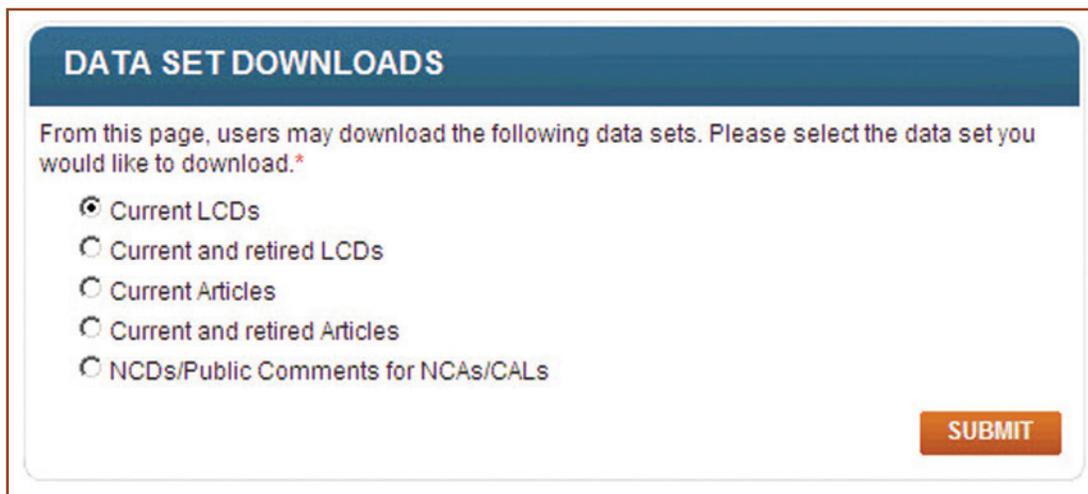


Figure 15: Downloads Feature

The following data sets may be downloaded:

- Current LCDs;
- Current and retired LCDs;
- Current Articles;
- Current and retired Articles; and
- NCDs/Public Comments for NCAs/CALs.

Select the data you would like to download and click Submit. Retired policies, sometimes known as archived policies, are those policies that are no longer in effect.

Depending on the volume of data you select, a customized report may come in a zipped or compressed format.

- For assistance with .zip files, select: Can I get instructions on what you do with a zipped file?
- To access the link for system requirements, select: What are the hardware and software requirements?

Note that most providers will not use the download feature. Each download includes the data in a Microsoft Access (.mdb) file, as well as a comma separated value (.csv) file, so they may be imported into a user's database management program.

Helpful Hint: Remember, the MCD is updated often; downloaded information may quickly become outdated.

Tips about MCD Downloads

Data Dictionary

Each data download includes a data dictionary that explains the content and structure of the database.

Hardware and Software Requirements

The user's computer must meet minimum standards to support the downloads. The standards are indicated on the Downloads main page.

Attachments

LCDs, Articles, and NCDs may include supporting attachment documents. These attachments are not included in the downloads. The attachments must be viewed via the MCD.

Retired LCDs and Articles

The downloads for LCD and Articles offer a Retired documents option. Retired documents, sometimes known as archived documents, are those that are no longer in effect and for which the contractor has indicated they are retired.

Historical Versions

A document may have many published versions over time. The downloads only include the most recent version of each document.

RESOURCES

Beneficiary Notices

<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-General-Information/BNI/index.html>

Both Medicare beneficiaries and providers have certain rights and protections related to financial liability under the FFS Medicare and the Medicare Advantage (MA) Programs. These financial liability and appeal rights and protections are communicated to beneficiaries through notices given by providers.

CMS Coverage Electronic Mailing List

<http://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Aboutwebsite/EmailUpdates.html>

CMS offers a free e-mail subscription service, which provides notifications electronically when new information is available. CMS Coverage electronic mailing list subscribers receive weekly notification when national coverage documents are updated, including NCAs, NCDs, and MEDCAC meeting information.

Internet-Only Manual (IOM) Pub 100-03

“Medicare National Coverage Determinations Manual”

<http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Internet-Only-Manuals-IOMs.html>

In addition to using the MCD, you may access NCDs in this manual. It is organized by categories (e.g., medical procedures, supplies, diagnostic services). A table of contents is provided for each of the four manual parts. Each subject in a category is listed and identified by a number.

Internet-Only Manual (IOM) Pub 100-08

“Medicare Program Integrity Manual”

<http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Internet-Only-Manuals-IOMs.html>

Chapter 13 is entitled “Local Coverage Determinations” and describes the development process of LCDS by Medicare FFS Contractors, including involvement of practicing health care providers.

Local Coverage Contacts

<http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database>

From the MCD Indexes page, click List of Contractor Websites in the Local Coverage Contacts section. From a Medicare FFS Contractor website, sign up for applicable electronic mailing list.

Medicare Coverage Center

<http://www.cms.gov/Center/Special-Topic/Medicare-Coverage-Center.html>

The CMS Coverage Center web page offers a spotlight of new information and links to other information organized by such topics as coverage process, information exchange, and coverage guidance documents.

Medicare Coverage General Information

<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coverage/CoverageGenInfo/index.html>

This page provides basic coverage information and links to the Coverage Center and MCD.

Official U.S. Government Site for Medicare

<http://www.medicare.gov>

People with Medicare, family members, and caregivers should visit this site for the latest information on Medicare enrollment, benefits, and other helpful tools.

For more information about the Medicare Coverage Database, visit <http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database> on the CMS website or scan the Quick Response (QR) code to the right with your mobile device.





Disclaimers

This booklet was current at the time it was published or uploaded onto the web. Medicare policy changes frequently so links to the source documents have been provided within the document for your reference.

This booklet was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This booklet may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations, and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents.

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Your feedback is important to us and we use your suggestions to help us improve our educational products, services and activities and to develop products, services and activities that better meet your educational needs. To evaluate Medicare Learning Network® (MLN) products, services and activities you have participated in, received, or downloaded, please go to <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/index.html> and click on the link called 'MLN Opinion Page' in the left-hand menu and follow the instructions.

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