
Program Memorandum Intermediaries/Carriers

Department of Health &
Human Services (DHHS)
Centers for Medicare &
Medicaid Services (CMS)

Transmittal AB-02-066

Date: MAY 2, 2002

CHANGE REQUEST 2153

SUBJECT: Non-coverage of Perception Sensory Threshold/Nerve Conduction Threshold Test (sNCT)

Background

The Current Perception Threshold/Sensory Nerve Conduction Threshold (sNCT) test is a diagnostic test used to diagnose sensory neuropathies. It is a noninvasive test that uses transcutaneous electrical stimulus to evoke a sensation. There is insufficient scientific or clinical evidence to consider this device reasonable and necessary within the meaning of §1862(a)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act. Therefore effective for dates of service **on or after October 1, 2002**, this test will not be covered by Medicare.

General Claims Processing Instructions

The changes made by the Program Memorandum (PM) will be made via the annual Medicare Physician Fee schedule Database (MPFSDB) and the quarterly Outpatient Code Editor (OCE) update process.

Carrier and Intermediary Billing/Claims Processing Instructions

Contractors with existing local medical review policies for coverage of the Current Perception Sensory Nerve Conduction Threshold (sNCT) test are advised that these policies are no longer valid as Medicare has issued a national non-coverage decision for this service.

Effective for dates of service **on or after October 1, 2002** contractors are advised not to pay for this test in any setting or under any code. The following HCPCS code for non-coverage applies:

- G0255

The effective date for this PM is October 1, 2002.

The implementation date for this PM is October 1, 2002.

This PM may be discarded after October 1, 2003.

These instructions should be implemented within your current operating budget.

If you have any questions, contact the appropriate regional office. Providers and other interested parties should contact the appropriate contractor.