

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



MLN Matters® Number: MM9246 **Revised**

Related Change Request (CR) #: 9246

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Related CR Transmittal #: R3374CP and R185NCD

Implementation Date: January 4, 2016

## Medicare Coverage of Screening for Lung Cancer with Low Dose Computed Tomography (LDCT)

**Note:** This article was revised on June 12, 2017, to add a paragraph on page 3 to clarify that Independent Diagnostic Testing Facilities (IDTFs) may be eligible facilities. All other information is unchanged.

### Provider Types Affected

This MLN Matters® Article is intended for physicians, other providers, and suppliers who submit claims to Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

### Provider Action Needed

Change Request (CR) 9246 informs MACs that Medicare covers lung cancer screening with LDCT if all eligibility requirements listed in the National Coverage Determination (NCD) are met. Make sure that your billing staffs are aware of these changes.

### Background

Section 1861(ddd)(1) of the [Social Security Act \(the Act\)](#) authorizes the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to add coverage of "additional preventive services" through the NCD process. The "additional preventive services" must meet all of the following criteria:

- Be reasonable and necessary for the prevention or early detection of illness or disability;

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- Be recommended with a grade of A or B by the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF); and
- Be appropriate for individuals entitled to benefits under Part A or enrolled under Part B.

CMS reviewed the evidence for lung cancer screening with low dose computed tomography (LDCT) and determined that the criteria listed above were met, enabling CMS to cover this “additional preventive service” under Medicare Part B.

CMS issued NCD 210.14 on August 21, 2015, that provides for Medicare coverage of screening for lung cancer with LDCT. Effective for claims with dates of service on and after February 5, 2015, Medicare beneficiaries must meet all of the following criteria:

- Be 55–77 years of age;
- Be asymptomatic (no signs or symptoms of lung cancer);
- Have a tobacco smoking history of at least 30 pack-years (one pack-year = smoking one pack per day for one year; 1 pack = 20 cigarettes);
- Be a current smoker or one who has quit smoking within the last 15 years; and,
- Receive a written order for lung cancer screening with LDCT that meets the requirements described in the NCD.

Written orders for lung cancer LDCT screenings must be appropriately documented in the beneficiary’s medical record, and must contain the following information:

- Date of birth;
- Actual pack–year smoking history (number);
- Current smoking status, and for former smokers, the number of years since quitting smoking;
- A statement that the beneficiary is asymptomatic (no signs or symptoms of lung cancer); and,
- The National Provider Identifier (NPI) of the ordering practitioner.

### **Counseling and Shared Decision-Making Visit**

Before the first lung cancer LDCT screening occurs, the beneficiary must receive a written order for LDCT lung cancer screening during a lung cancer screening counseling and shared decision-making visit that includes the following elements and is appropriately documented in the beneficiary’s medical records:

- Must be furnished by a physician (as defined in section 1861(r)(1) of the Act) or qualified non-physician practitioner (meaning a Physician Assistant (PA), Nurse Practitioner (NP), or Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) as defined in section 1861(aa)(5) of the Act); and
- Must include all of the following elements:
  - Determination of beneficiary eligibility including age, absence of signs or symptoms of lung cancer, a specific calculation of cigarette smoking pack-years; and if a former smoker, the number of years since quitting;
  - Shared decision-making, including the use of one or more decision aids, to include benefits and harms of screening, follow-up diagnostic testing, over-diagnosis, false positive rate, and total radiation exposure;

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- Counseling on the importance of adherence to annual lung cancer LDCT screening, impact of co-morbidities, and ability or willingness to undergo diagnosis and treatment;
- Counseling on the importance of maintaining cigarette smoking abstinence if former smoker; or the importance of smoking cessation if current smoker and, if appropriate, furnishing of information about tobacco cessation interventions; and,
- If appropriate, the furnishing of a written order for lung cancer screening with LDCT.

Written orders for subsequent annual LDCT screens may be furnished during any appropriate visit with a physician or qualified non-physician practitioner (PA, NP, or CNS).

As part of the NCD, all criteria listed in the NCD must be met to include requirements for reading radiologists and radiology imaging facilities. In addition to collecting and submitting data to a CMS-approved registry, all facilities that would like to be eligible to perform the lung cancer screening, including Independent Diagnostic Testing Facilities (IDTFs), must meet all criteria stated in the Decision Memo for Lung Cancer Screening with LDCT, which is available at <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/nca-decision-memo.aspx?NCAId=274>. Information regarding CMS-approved registries is posted at: <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-General-Information/MedicareApprovedFacilitie/Lung-Cancer-Screening-Registries.html> on the CMS website.

### **Coinsurance and Deductibles**

Medicare coinsurance and Part B deductible are waived for this preventive service.

### **Health Care Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Codes**

Effective for claims with dates of service on and after February 5, 2015, the following HCPCS codes are used for lung cancer screening with LDCT:

- G0296 – Counseling visit to discuss need for lung cancer screening (LDCT) using low dose CT scan (service is for eligibility determination and shared decision making)
- G0297 – Low dose CT scan (LDCT) for lung cancer screening

In addition to the HCPCS code, these services must be billed with ICD-10 diagnosis code Z87.891 (personal history of tobacco use/personal history of nicotine dependence), ICD-9 diagnosis code V15.82.

**NOTE: Contractors shall apply contractor-pricing to claims containing HCPCS G0296 and G0297 with dates of service February 5, 2015, through December 31, 2015.**

### **Institutional Billing Requirements**

Effective for claims with dates of service on and after February 5, 2015, providers may use the following Types of Bill (TOBs) when submitting claims for lung cancer screening, HCPCS codes G0296 and G0297: 12X, 13X, 22X, 23X, 71X (G0296 only), 77X (G0296 only), and 85X.

Medicare will pay for these services as follows:

- Outpatient hospital departments – TOBs 12X and 13X - based on Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS);

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- Skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) – TOBs 22X and 23X – based on the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS);
- Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) - TOB 85X – based on reasonable cost;
- CAH Method II – TOB 85X with revenue code 096X, 097X, or 098X based on the lesser of the actual charge or the MPFS (115% of the lesser of the fee schedule amount and submitted charge) for HCPCS G0296 only;
- Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) - TOB 71X - based on the all-inclusive rate for HCPCS G0296 only; and
- Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) – TOB 77X - based on the PPS rate for HCPCS G0296 only.

**NOTE:** For outpatient hospital settings, as in any other setting, services covered under this NCD must be ordered by a primary care provider within the context of a primary care setting and performed by an eligible Medicare provider for these services.

**Claim Adjustment Reason Codes (CARCs), Remittance Advice Remark Codes (RARCs), Group Codes**

MACs will use the following CARCs, RARCs, and Group Codes when denying payment for LDCT lung cancer screening, HCPCS G0296 and G0297:

Submitted on a TOB other than 12X, 13X, 22X, 23X, 71X, 77X, or 85X:

- CARC 170 - Payment is denied when performed/billed by this type of provider. Note: Refer to the 835 Healthcare Policy Identification Segment (loop 2110 Service Payment Information REF), if present.
- RARC N95 – This provider type/provider specialty may not bill this service.
- Group Code CO (Contractual Obligation) assigning financial liability to the provider (if a claim is received with a GZ modifier indicating no signed ABN is on file).  
**NOTE:** For modifier GZ, MACs will use CARC 50.

For TOBs 71X and 77X when HCPCS G0296 is billed on the same date of service with another visit (this does not apply to initial preventive physical exams for 71X TOBs):

- CARC 97 - The benefit for this service is included in the payment/allowance for another service/procedure that has already been adjudicated. Note: Refer to the 835 Healthcare Policy Identification Segment (loop 2110 Service Payment Information REF), if present.
- RARC M15 - Separately billed services/tests have been bundled as they are considered components of the same procedure. Separate payment is not allowed.  
**NOTE:** 77X TOBs will be processed through the Integrated Outpatient Code Editor under the current process.
- Group Code CO assigning financial liability to the provider.

Where a previous HCPCS G0297 is paid in history in a 12-month period (at least 11 full months must elapse from the date of the last screening):

- CARC 119 – Benefit maximum for this time period or occurrence has been reached.

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- RARC N386 - This decision was based on a National Coverage Determination (NCD). An NCD provides a coverage determination as to whether a particular item or service is covered. A copy of this policy is available at [www.cms.gov/mcd/search.asp](http://www.cms.gov/mcd/search.asp). If you do not have web access, you may contact the contractor to request a copy of the NCD.
- Group Code CO assigning financial liability to the provider (if a claim is received with a GZ modifier indicating no signed ABN is on file).  
**NOTE:** For modifier GZ, MACs will use CARC 50.

Because the beneficiary is not between the ages of 55 and 77 at the time the service was rendered (line-level):

- CARC 6: “The procedure/revenue code is inconsistent with the patient's age. Note: Refer to the 835 Healthcare Policy Identification Segment (loop 2110 Service Payment Information REF), if present.”
- Group Code: CO (Contractual Obligation) assigning financial liability to the provider (if a claim is received with a GZ modifier indicating no signed ABN is on file).  
**NOTE:** For modifier GZ, MACs will use CARC 50.

Because the claim line was not billed with ICD-10 diagnosis Z87.891:

- CARC 167 – This (these) diagnosis(es) is (are) not covered. Note: Refer to the 835 Healthcare Policy Identification Segment (loop 2110 Service Payment Information REF), if present.
- RARC N386 - This decision was based on a National Coverage Determination (NCD). An NCD provides a coverage determination as to whether a particular item or service is covered. A copy of this policy is available at [www.cms.gov/mcd/search.asp](http://www.cms.gov/mcd/search.asp). If you do not have web access, you may contact the contractor to request a copy of the NCD.
- Group Code: CO assigning financial liability to the provider (if a claim is received with a GZ modifier indicating no signed ABN is on file).  
**NOTE:** For modifier GZ, MACs will use CARC 50.

## Additional Information

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The official instruction, CR9246, consists of two transmittals:

1. [Transmittal R3374CP](#), which updates the “Medicare Claims Processing Manual;” and
2. [Transmittal R185NCD](#), which updates the “Medicare NCD Manual.”

If you have any questions, please contact your MAC at their toll-free number. That number is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/Medicare-FFS-Compliance-Programs/Review-Contractor-Directory-Interactive-Map/>.

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## Document History

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Date of Change	Description
June 12, 2017	The article was revised on June 9, 2017, to include a paragraph on page 3 to show that IDTFs may be eligible facilities.
June 24, 2016	The article was revised to add a link to a related article <a href="#">MM9540</a> . That article provides a ICD-10 code that has been added for Lung Cancer Screening with Low Dose Computed Tomography (LDCT).
November 16, 2015	Initial article posted.

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