

Related Change Request (CR) #: 3250
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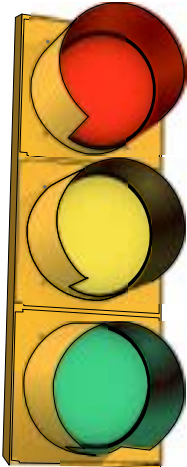
Medlearn Matters Number: MM3250

Manualization NCD: Acupuncture for Fibromyalgia/Osteoarthritis

Provider Types Affected

Physicians, suppliers, and providers.

Provider Action Needed



STOP – Impact to You

Physicians, suppliers, and providers should note that this instruction relates to acupuncture for the treatment of fibromyalgia and osteoarthritis.

CAUTION – What You Need to Know

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) concludes that acupuncture is not reasonable and necessary for the treatment of fibromyalgia and osteoarthritis within the meaning of Section 1862(a)(1) of the Social Security Act. Therefore, CMS continues its national **noncoverage** determination for acupuncture.

GO – What You Need to Do

Refer to the *Background* and *Additional Information* sections of this instruction for further details regarding these changes.

Background

After reconsideration of the national noncoverage determination for acupuncture, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) concludes that acupuncture is not reasonable and necessary for the treatment of fibromyalgia and osteoarthritis within the meaning of Section 1862(a)(1) of the Social Security Act.

Therefore, CMS continues its national **noncoverage** determination for acupuncture.

This revision is a national coverage determination (NCD), and NCDs are binding on all carriers, fiscal intermediaries, quality improvement organizations, health maintenance organizations, competitive medical plans, and health care prepayment plans. Under 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 422.256(b), an NCD that expands coverage is also binding on Medicare+Choice Organizations.

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In addition, an administrative law judge may not review an NCD. (See §1869(f)(1)(A)(i) of the Social Security Act.)

Implementation

The implementation date for this instruction is April 16, 2004.

Related Instructions

The following Internet Only Medicare Manual (IOM) has been edited with revised and new sections to reflect changes implemented with this instruction.

The Medicare National Coverage Determinations Manual (Pub. 100-3), Chapter 1 (Coverage Determinations)

- Table of Contents - revised
- Section 30.3.1 (Acupuncture for Fibromyalgia) – revised
- Section 30.3.2 (Acupuncture for Osteoarthritis) – revised.

Changes to sections of the Medicare National Coverage Determinations Manual are included in CR3250 referenced below in the *Additional Information* section. These revised instructions briefly explain the process CMS used in reaching this decision.

Additional Information

The official instruction issued to your carrier regarding this change may be found by going to:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/transmittals/comm_date_dsc.asp

From that web page, look for CR3250 in the CR NUM column on the right, and click on the file for that CR.

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