

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



MLN Matters® Number: MM9981

Related Change Request (CR) #: CR 9981

Related CR Release Date: March 3, 2017

Effective Date: August 30, 2016

Related CR Transmittal #: R194NCD

Implementation Date: April 4, 2017

Gender Dysphoria and Gender Reassignment Surgery

Provider Types Affected

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

What You Need to Know

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 9981, which informs MACs that coverage determinations for gender reassignment surgery will continue to be made by the local MACs on a case-by-case basis. Make sure that your billing staffs are aware of these changes.

Background

On August 30, 2016, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final decision memorandum (DM) on gender reassignment surgery for gender dysphoria. Importantly, the DM did not create or change existing policy – CMS did not issue a national coverage determination (NCD).

The purpose of this CR is to include an explanatory paragraph about gender reassignment surgery in the Medicare NCD Manual at Chapter 1, Part 2, Section 140.9. This is in response to public inquires to have information about gender reassignment surgery among Medicare coverage information.

Policy: Effective for claims with dates of service on or after August 30, 2016, coverage determinations for gender reassignment surgery, under section 1862(a)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act and any other relevant statutory requirements, will continue to be made by the local Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) on a case-by-case basis.

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Additional Information

The official instruction, CR 9981, issued to your MAC regarding this change, is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/2017Downloads/R194NCD.pdf>.

If you have any questions, please contact your MAC at their toll-free number. That number is available at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/index.html> on the CMS website under - How Does It Work.

Document History

Date	Description
March 6, 2017	Article released

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