

# Strength of Evidence

In the spirit of transparency, Novitas/First Coast offers insight below about our guidance on the strength of medical literature that may be submitted to us for consideration (LCD reconsideration, new LCD request, or with a proposed LCD comment).

## STRONG

Scientific data or peer-reviewed published scientific literature

Standard of practice

Consensus of expert medical opinion

Clinical study involving Medicare patients

Peer-reviewed literature

Randomized Control Trials (RCTs)

Meta-Analysis

Systemic reviews

Prospective studies

Appropriate sample size (larger sample size)

Studies without a high probability of bias

## WEAK

Opinion statements or Editorials

Case studies

Retrospective studies

Posters or editorials

Studies with small, non-diverse populations

Single method used

Speculation

Practitioner wisdom

Published more than 10 years prior

Not peer-reviewed

Conflicts of Interest

- All authors benefit financially
- Author submits own articles with the request