

MEDICARE PART A BULLETIN

October 22, 1997

General Medicare Bulletin G-302

TO: All Medicare Providers

FROM: Medical Policy Development

SUBJECT: **FINAL LOCAL MEDICAL REVIEW POLICIES (LMRPs) : A80162, A83036, & A87086, AND REVISED LMRP A99183**

ATTENTION MEDICARE BUSINESS OFFICE: Please distribute to all appropriate health care facility personnel.

The purpose of this bulletin is to publish final Local Medical Review Policies (LMRPs) A80162, A83036, A87086 and to revise LMRP A99183. These three final LMRPs were published for notice and comment via General Medicare Bulletin G-292 (July 2, 1997). Subsequently, comments received during the 45-day notice and comment period were reviewed and considered for incorporation into the final policies. Based on the publication of this final notice, these LMRPs will be effective approximately 30-days from the date of this bulletin.

In accordance with the Health Care Financing Administration's (HCFA) guidelines, a minimum 30-day advance notice is required on all final Medicare Part A LMRPs. However, policy number A99183* is currently reviewed under existing policy via the Artificial Intelligence (AI) application. Since this existing AI application does not represent new or significant changes in the established Medical Policy Procedures, the 30-day advance notice requirement is not applicable.

These policies have been committed to the Medical Policy Procedures format and provide detailed policy information. As we continue to document existing policies, and as additional new Medicare Part A Medical Policy Procedures are approved, policies will be published to the provider community.

** Local Medical Review Policy A99183 for Hyperbaric Oxygen Chamber (HBO) has recently been revised. HCFA has further defined the covered condition of progressive necrotizing infections which include meleny ulcers as well as necrotizing fascitis. The code used to identify the medical condition of meleny ulcer has been expanded to a fifth digit specificity in the ICD-9-CM coding changes for 1998. This revised LMRP contains all ICD-9-CM diagnosis code changes for 1998 as well as several additional diagnosis codes that are available to support medically necessary HBO treatments.*

The HBO LMRP is currently reviewed via an AI application, however, since the change in the policy was to add diagnosis codes to the existing LMRP, the 30-day advance notification does not apply.

MEDICARE PART A MEDICAL POLICY PROCEDURES

Medical Policy may be applied to Medicare claims on either a pre-payment or post-payment basis. Medicare participating providers are accountable for compliance with published policy application.

This includes Medicare coverage/policy information published via national HCFA Manual Transmittals, or fiscal intermediary publication of Local Medical Review Policy (LMRP).

PROVIDERS SHOULD MAINTAIN LMR POLICIES FOR REFERENCE

Providers are encouraged to maintain all published Medical Policy Procedures on file (i.e., the attached policies); perhaps placing them in a manual/binder where they may be accessed/referenced by facility staff. Ultimately, all Medicare Part A Medical Policy Procedures will be available to provider customers via our bulletin board system (BBS-BLine), to view or download.

MEDICAL POLICY PROCEDURE INDEXES

Since the policy numbering structure is not arrayed in an ascending or descending alpha or numeric order, because policy numbers may be either alpha-numeric or all alpha characters, two Medical Policy Procedure indexes are provided. When additional policies are published to Medicare Part A provider customers, via the bulletin mechanism, the indexes will be updated and published at the same time. The indexes, which include a HCPCS/CPT code reference when applicable, should enhance the ability of your facility staff to access and utilize these medical policy publications. The following indexes provide for reference by either the subject/title or the policy number:

- Medicare Part A Medical Policy Procedures Index by Subject/Title; and
- Medicare Part A Medical Policy Procedures Index by Policy Number.

The attached Medicare Part A Medical Policy Procedures are effective for claims received by the fiscal intermediary on and after November 24, 1997.

Refer to Medicare Part A Local Medical Review Policy (LMRP) area for DRAFT (if within comment period) and FINAL policies.