

Coverage Guidelines

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GuidePoint

Simplifying Reimbursement

**Cardiac Rhythm Management
and Electrophysiology**

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Medicare publishes national coverage determinations (NCDs) to specify the extent to which Medicare will cover specific services, procedures, or technologies on a national basis. Local Medicare contractor payers are required to follow these NCDs where they exist. Where they do not exist, it is up to the Medicare contractor to make local coverage determinations (LCDs). An LCD is a decision by a local Medicare contractor whether to cover a particular service, deemed reasonable and necessary, on a local basis. LCDs are specific to the local contractor's geographical coverage area and apply only to beneficiaries within that area.

Roughly 90 percent of all health care services are covered at the local contractor level, and 10 percent at the national level through the publication of an NCD. Medicare has applicable NCDs for ICDs, cardiac pacemakers, and cardiac pacemaker follow-up services. They can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/>.

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Cardiac Rhythm Management

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