# Local Coverage Determination & National Coverage Determination

# JOB AID

All National Coverage Determinations (NCDs) and Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs) are housed in the CMS (The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid) Medicare Coverage Database: http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/

## How To Find NCDs and LCDs

The Medicare Coverage Database page has a Quick Search Engine on the right side of the page. This will assist you in finding the appropriate resource for your coverage determinations. There is a section to search by Document ID, or by Document Type.
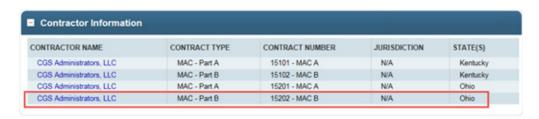
## The First Way to Find Documents
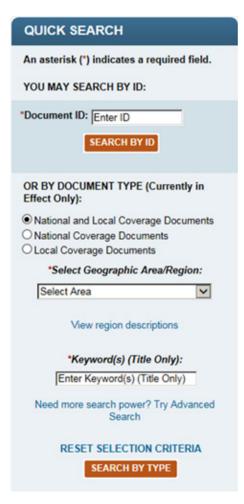## Is to Search by LCD/NCD Number

The easiest way to search for a policy is to search using the specific policy number.

- NCDs are all numbers with decimals. For example, the policy for *Bariatric Surgery for Treatment of Morbid Obesity* is 100.1.

- LCDs all start with the letter L, followed by five numbers. For example, the LCD for *Removal of Benign Skin Lesions* is L34200.

- The LCDs are the same for Kentucky and Ohio. However, Kentucky LCDs are under contractor number 15102, and Ohio LCDs are under 15202.

- You must enter the Date of Service. If you are looking for a current date of service, enter today's date. If you are looking for a specific date of service for a patient, enter that date.



- For our example, we will look up the LCD L34200, for an Ohio provider (contractor number 15202).

- Select the name of the LCD. The search results show the following with the LCD information below it:



### QUICK SEARCH

An asterisk (*) indicates a required field.

YOU MAY SEARCH BY ID:

*Document ID: [Enter ID]

SEARCH BY ID

OR BY DOCUMENT TYPE (Currently in Effect Only):

- ● National and Local Coverage Documents
- ○ National Coverage Documents
- ○ Local Coverage Documents

*Select Geographic Area/Region:

[Select Area ▾]

View region descriptions

*Keyword(s) (Title Only):

[Enter Keyword(s) (Title Only)]

Need more search power? Try Advanced Search

RESET SELECTION CRITERIA

SEARCH BY TYPE

## LCDs Have Three Major Parts: LCD Information, Coding Information, and General Information

### LCD Information

- **Document Information:** LCD Identification number, title, the effective date, and revision date.

- **CMS National Coverage Policy:** Any determination that CMS may have based on Social Security Act or manual information.

- **Coverage Indications, Limitations, and Medical Necessity:** Defines any coverage information that your office might need to determine if a service is covered, and what guidelines need to be met.

### Coding Information

- **CPT Codes under this policy:** Lists CPT codes that are included in this policy (meaning, codes that are subject to the rules, guidelines, and restrictions in the policy). **Note:** multiple policies may apply to a single CPT code.

- **Diagnosis Codes under this policy:** Lists the ICD-CM codes indicated for coverage of the policy. These are usually the diagnoses considered "covered" (supporting documentation is required in the patient's medical record). Some policies may list non-covered diagnoses, so check the wording carefully. Policies may have different sections for different CPT codes, or one complete list.

### General Information

- **Associated Information/Sources:** Information on coverage based on documentation and sources of information that were considered when the policy was being developed.

- **Update/Revision History:** Any revisions that have been made to the policy since original publication, in order to reference any procedures or diagnoses added or removed from the policy.

**There are four parts to each NCD:** Tracking, Description, and Transmittal Information and National Coverage Analyses.

- **Tracking Information:** Includes the publication number, the manual number, the effective date of the NCD, and the version number of the policy.

- **Description Information:** Provides a description of the service being provided, and the indications and limitations of coverage. It also includes the benefit category.

- **Transmittal Information:** Lists the transmittal number and any revision history applicable to this policy.

- **National Coverage Analyses:** Provides reference information used to determine the decision, along with any associations with other NCDs currently enforced.

There are 24 Lab National Coverage Determinations. They are located at the following website: http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/indexes/lab-ncd-index.aspx