



## **Coding and Billing Updates Physician Services, NCD and LCD Determinations**

As of April 3, 2020

### Physician Services:

CMS is waiving 482.12(c)(1-2) and (4), which requires that Medicare patients in the hospital be under the care of a physician. This allows hospitals to use other practitioners, such as physician assistants and nurse practitioners, to the fullest extent possible. ***This waiver should be implemented in accordance with a state's emergency preparedness or pandemic plan.***

CMS is also waiving the requirement in 42 CFR 483.30 for physicians and non-physician practitioners to perform in-person visits for nursing home residents and allow visits to be conducted, as appropriate, via telehealth options.

### National coverage determinations (NCDs) and Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs):

To the extent NCDs and LCDs require a specific practitioner type or physician specialty to furnish or supervise a service, during this public health emergency, the Chief Medical Officer or equivalent of a hospital or facility will have the authority to make those staffing decisions.

To the extent that a National Coverage Determination (NCD) or Local Coverage Determination (LCD) would otherwise require a face-to-face visit for evaluations and assessments, clinicians would not have to meet those requirements during the public health emergency.

Resource: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/covid-19-physicians-and-practitioners.pdf>