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Comments and Responses Regarding Draft Local Coverage Determination: Ocular Photography -- External

As an important part of Medicare Local Coverage Determination (LCD) development, National Government Services solicits comments from the provider community and from members of the public who may be affected by or interested in our LCDs. The purpose of the advice and comment process is to gain the expertise and experience of those commenting.

We would like to thank those who suggested changes to the draft Ocular Photography -- External LCD. The official notice period for the final LCD begins on October 1, 2008. The policy will become effective on November 15, 2008.

Comment: One commenter was concerned that the list of "ICD-9 Codes to Support Medical Necessity" was too expansive.

Response: The physician was invited to suggest deletions but did not do so. Physicians are reminded that the "Indications and Limitations of Coverage and/or Medical Necessity" portion of the policy describe the clinical situations in which the external ocular photography would be considered "reasonable and necessary." The diagnosis alone does not mean that the procedure is medically necessary.