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# Medicare

## Comments and Responses Regarding Draft Local Coverage Determination: Allergy Immunotherapy

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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 Allergy Immunotherapy LCD. The official notice period for the final LCD begins on November 17, 2008 and the final determination will become effective on January 1, 2009.

**Comment:** Immunotherapy is often necessary for animal dander sensitivity because avoidance is not always possible. Exposure to both dog and cat allergen has been shown to be ubiquitous and can occur even without an animal in the home. Removal of the offending animal may be feasible and sufficient in some cases, there are often many other exposures to animal dander (occupational and otherwise) which cannot be addressed by removal of the source of the dander.

**Response:** Necessary changes have been made to the LCD.

**Comment:** A commenter requests that the reference to "intracutaneous titration" as an investigational technique be deleted as it is a well established allergy diagnostic testing technique and is recognized by the JCAAI practice parameters.

**Response:** It has been deleted.

**Comment:** Venom immunotherapy is recommended for individuals who have experienced an anaphylactic reaction to an insect sting. It is not necessary the reaction be "severe."

**Response:** This change has been incorporated into the LCD