

Final Comments and Response

LCD Title

Somatosensory Testing

Contractor's Determination Number

NEURO-013

LCD Database ID Number

L32902

Comment

It was suggested by a CAC member to add the ICD- for scoliosis and spina bifida, as these tests are used during surgery for those cases.

Response

Thank you the codes were added, in addition we added the ICD-9 codes that are currently in the Intra operative Monitoring LCD because of the significant cross over of these two topics it was felt that as a service to our providers having similar lists would be beneficial and appropriate.

Comment

We strongly urge you to ensure that certified physical therapists (and those who are grandfathered) can continue to bill for both the technical and professional components of these tests so that it accurately reflects Medicare's policy on physician supervision of diagnostic tests, which was issued in Program Memorandum B-01-28 and reaffirmed in Transmittal 2119 dated December 14, 2010.

Response

The language in the LCD was corrected, as follows:

The Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Database (MPFSDB) physician supervision indicator for CPT codes 95925, 92526, 95927 and 95938 have Level 21 for the technical component. Level 21 defined as: *Procedure may be performed by a technician with certification under general supervision of a physician; otherwise must be performed under direct supervision of a physician. Procedure may also be performed by a PT with ABPTS certification without physician supervision.*

Program Memorandum Transmittal B-01-28/Change Request 850 sets forth revised levels of physician supervision required for diagnostic tests payable under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule. Effective July 1, 2001, certain codes in the range of CPT 95860-95937 were assigned new supervision levels (21, 22, 6a, 66, 77 or 77a). This implementation date would make it possible for physical therapists to acquire the certification required to perform these services without supervision. A physical therapist who is presently certified by the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties can perform procedures assigned level of 21, 22, 66, 6a, 77, or 77a without supervision. These numeric levels assigned to the CPT codes are listed in the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Database (MFSDDB). *Physical therapists who do not possess the ABPTS (American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties) certification by July 1, 2001, may continue to furnish those tests that require the certification if they have been furnishing such diagnostic tests prior to May 1, 2001.*

Therefore, if authorized by state law Physical Therapists are allowed the technical portion of the test.

The global service and the professional service do not have the 21 designation and therefore this rule does not apply to the global or professional service.

State scope of practice laws would also apply in the case of Physical Therapists being allowed to perform the technical component of these tests.