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Low Osmolor Contrast Media - CMS Proposed Payment Policy

On August 5, 2004, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (“CMS”) published its proposed rule for provisions to payment policies under its Physician Fee Schedule for calendar year 2005. One of the proposed revisions is to begin paying for all Low Osmolor Contrast Media (“LOCM”) and to eliminate the criteria for payment of LOCM that it had previously adopted so as to make Medicare payment for LOCM consistent across all settings.

According to CMS, the proposed removal of the restrictive criteria which presently limit Medicare payment for the use of LOCM is “consistent with the standard practice of medicine and will improve the quality of care for beneficiaries”. Should you wish a copy of the relevant pages published in the Federal Register [69 FR pp. 47552, 47551, and 47573], please contact us.

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