

MEMO

January 30, 2017

TO: Chief Financial Officers and Business Managers

FROM: Jim Mikes
Vice President of Rural Advocacy and Regulation

SUBJECT: Changes in Local Coverage Determinations Regarding Sleep Studies

Hospitals should be aware that beginning February 16, 2017, Wisconsin Physician Services (WPS), will apply new accreditation standards in determining coverage for sleep studies. Local Coverage Determination [L36839](#) was issued on January 1, 2017. This LCD replaces [L34535](#), originally issued on October 1, 2015, and revised on October 1, 2016.

There are slight, but significant changes implemented in the new LCD. The new policy (L36839), no longer accepts performance of the service based on a subspecialty of pulmonology or neurology alone, but requires that the performing physician have specific sleep certifications or be an active physician staff member of a credentialed sleep center or laboratory that has active physician staff members meeting the specific certification criteria. In addition, the new policy states that when The Joint Commission accreditation is used to meet the coverage criteria, the accreditation must include sleep specific credentials under the ambulatory health care program.

The Missouri Hospital Association has received several inquiries regarding the application of these new criteria to hospitals and critical access hospitals. This new LCD policy defines “Sleep Center or Laboratory” as “any site or place of service other than patient’s home where sleep studies or recordings are performed.”

If you have any questions, please contact me at 573/893-3700, ext. 1393 or jmikes@mhanet.com.

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