



Related MLN Matters Article #: MM4173

Date Posted: December 22, 2005

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## *Stem Cell Transplantation*

### Key Words

MM4173, CR4173, R45NCD, R766CP, Stem, Cell, Transplantation

### Provider Types Affected

Physicians, suppliers, and providers billing Medicare carriers and/or fiscal intermediaries (FIs) for services related to stem cell transplantation

### Key Points

- The effective date of the instruction is November 28, 2005.
- The implementation date is January 3, 2006.
- CR4173 clarifies that stem cell transplantation and high-dose chemotherapy are both integral to the course of treatment and are covered as a single entity.
- CR4173 clarifies existing National Coverage Determination policy language and corresponding claims processing language as follows:

*“Bone marrow and peripheral blood stem cell transplantation is a process which includes mobilization, harvesting, and transplant of bone marrow or peripheral blood stem cells and the administration of high dose chemotherapy or radiotherapy prior to the actual transplant. When bone marrow or peripheral blood stem cell transplantation is covered, all necessary steps are included in coverage. When bone marrow or peripheral blood stem cell transplantation is non-covered, none of the steps are covered.”*

- There is no change to existing Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) coverage policy or claims processing instructions.

## Important Links

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM4173.pdf>

For complete details, affected providers should see the official instruction issued to their carrier/intermediary regarding this change. Those instructions are in two parts. The first part is the actual change to the *Medicare National Coverage Determinations (NCD) Manual*, which includes the actual policy language regarding stem cell transplantation. That part may be viewed at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R45NCD.pdf> on the CMS web site.

The second part contains the changes to the *Medicare Claims Processing Manual*. Those changes are available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R776CP.pdf> on the CMS web site.

If affected providers have questions, they should contact their carrier or FI at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS web site.