

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 17, 2018

Dr. Charles E. Haley
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC
900 42nd Street S
PO Box 6781
Fargo, ND 58108

Dear Dr. Haley:

We are writing to express our ongoing interest in the appropriate reimbursement coverage for life-saving diagnostic testing for cardiac artery disease (CAD) among Medicare recipients in Utah.

We state the obvious when we note that heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States and in Utah. Current, widely used diagnostic tests to reveal the presence of cardiac artery disease (CAD) are inaccurate, often resulting in false positives and false negatives. Of Medicare patients who receive invasive coronary angiograms (ICA), 15,000 experience extreme complications from the procedure, such as: bleeding, stroke, heart attack, and tearing of arteries. Tragically, around 2,500 of these patients die each year. Worse, approximately half of ICAs prove that there is no CAD and that the ICA was thus, in retrospect, unnecessary. We believe that we can do better.

Earlier this year, CMS published the approval of a New Technology APC for Fractional Flow Reserve Computed Tomography (FFR-CT). Numerous clinical trials have shown this new, non-invasive CAD test to be much more accurate than traditional stress testing. It also provides the cardiologist with the diagnostic information previously available only through the ICA. This procedure prevents the patient from the risks associated with a diagnostic ICA, ensures CAD is detected when it exists, and saves money by reducing the number of unnecessary tests.

We are hopeful that this advanced technological diagnostic tool will soon be available to Medicare beneficiaries in our State. We understand that Noridian, as the Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC), is in discussions with the vendor of this technology to consider how best to deal with coverage, perhaps through a Local Coverage Determination (LCD). This would be consistent with the issuance of a New Tech APC by CMS. This determination would provide Utah Medicare beneficiaries the same access as Medicare beneficiaries in about one-half of the country that have coverage for this diagnostic tool through LCDs issued by their MACs.

We ask that you keep us apprised on your discussions with the vendor concerning the potential issuance of an LCD and look forward to our citizens who are covered by Medicare receiving the same standard of care as elsewhere in the country.

Sincerely,



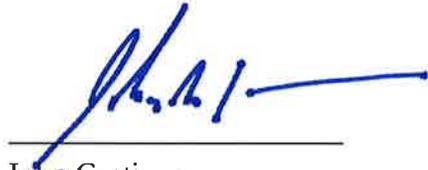
Chris Stewart
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Rob Bishop
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