

Officers

May 26, 2021

**Madelaine A. Feldman, MD, FACP**  
President

Robert E. Kettler, MD  
Ella M. Noel, D.O., F.A.C.O.I.

**Gary Feldman, MD**  
Vice President

Wisconsin Physicians Service Insurance Corporation  
1717 W. Broadway

**Michael Saitta, MD, MBA**  
Treasurer

PO Box 1787  
Madison, WI 53701-1787

**Michael S. Brooks, MD, FACP, FACR**  
Secretary

**RE: Local Coverage Article (LCA) titled Billing and Coding: Complex Drug Administration (A58544)**

Directors

Dear Drs. Kettler and Noel:

**Kostas Botsoglou, MD**  
Director

The Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations (CSRO) is comprised of over 40 state and regional professional rheumatology societies whose mission is to advocate for excellence in the field of rheumatology, ensuring access to the highest quality of care for the management of rheumatologic and musculoskeletal disease. Our coalition serves the practicing rheumatologist.

**Mark Box, MD**  
Director

**Aaron Broadwell, MD**  
Director

We write to share concerns about your recently revised LCA that provides billing and coding guidance for complex drug administration based on the assertion that *“there is inappropriate use of CPT codes 96401-96549 for chemotherapy and other highly complex drug or highly complex biologic agent administration.”*<sup>i</sup>

**Adrienne Burford Foggs, MD**  
Director

**Sarah Doaty, MD**  
Director

**Challenges with LCA Policy**

**Harry Gewanter, MD, FAAP, MACR**  
Director

As the LCA explains, the American Medical Association (AMA) Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code book describes chemotherapy as including *“other highly complex drugs or highly complex biologic agents,”* that in the context of chemotherapy administration (CPT 96401-96549) would consist of *“certain monoclonal antibody agents, and other biologic response modifiers.”*<sup>ii</sup> The AMA CPT code book further clarifies that these drugs require advanced clinical skill to prepare, administer, and monitor, given the associated safety warnings and potential for adverse reactions.

**Adrienne Hollander, MD**  
Director

**Robert Levin, MD**  
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**Amar Majhoo, MD**  
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Moreover, CMS previously issued a one-time notification<sup>iii</sup> to its Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) that stating the following:

**Gregory Schimizzi, MD**  
Director

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Director

**Joshua Stolor, MD**  
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Headquarter Office

The notice was issued in December 2004 when there were only a handful of targeted therapies available for non-cancer diagnoses. Since that time, however, there has been tremendous growth in the availability of monoclonal antibody agents and other biologic response modifiers for use in autoimmune diseases, such as rheumatoid and psoriatic arthritis.

**Ann Marie Moss**  
Executive Director

Based on the above, **it is clear that targeted therapies used to treat rheumatic conditions, including Cimzia®, Prolia®, Orencia®, Simponi Aria®, and Stelara®, are highly complex drugs**

**and biologic agents.** Coding for the administration of these therapies squarely fits the definition of “Chemotherapy and Other Highly Complex Drug or Highly Complex Biological Agent Administration” (CPT codes 96401 – 96549). Unfortunately, the LCA concludes otherwise and directs clinicians to inappropriately “down-code” the administration of these drugs using “Therapeutic Prophylactic, and Diagnostic Injections and Infusions” codes (CPT codes 96365 – 96379).

## Challenges with LCA Process

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- 1) Made a change in coverage policy for drug administration services without issuing a proposed LCD;
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## Conclusion

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President



Michael C. Schweitz, MD  
Federal Advocacy Chair

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/article-details.aspx?articleId=58620&ver=6>

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<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R129OTN.pdf>

<sup>iv</sup> <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/pim83c13.pdf>

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**Madelaine A. Feldman, MD, FACR**  
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Leland Garrett, MD, FACP, FASN, CPC

**Gary Feldman, MD**  
Vice President

Miguel Brito, MD, FCAP, FASCP

Palmetto GBA

Attn: Medical Affairs, AG -275

**Michael Saitta, MD, MBA**  
Treasurer

P.O. Box 100305

Columbia, SC 29202-3305

**Michael S. Brooks, MD, FACP, FACR**  
Secretary

**RE: Local Coverage Article (LCA) titled Billing and Coding: Complex Drug Administration (A58527)**

Directors

Dear Drs. Garrett and Brito:

**Kostas Botsoglou, MD**  
Director

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Officers

May 26, 2021

**Madeline A. Feldman, MD, FACP**  
President

Eileen Moynihan, MD, FACP, FACRH  
Janet Lawrence, MD

**Gary Feldman, MD**  
Vice President

Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC  
900 42nd Street S.

**Michael Saitta, MD, MBA**  
Treasurer

PO Box 6781  
Fargo, ND 58103-6781

**Michael S. Brooks, MD, FACP, FACR**  
Secretary

**RE: Local Coverage Article (LCA) titled Billing and Coding: Complex Drug Administration (A58532 and A58533)**

Directors

Dear Drs. Moynihan and Lawrence:

**Kostas Botsoglou, MD**  
Director

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Vice President

**Michael Saitta, MD, MBA**  
Treasurer

**Michael S. Brooks, MD, FACP, FACR**  
Secretary

May 26, 2021

Carolyn Cunningham, M.D.  
Stephen D. Boren, MD  
National Government Services, Inc.  
P.O. Box 7108  
Indianapolis, IN 46207

**RE: Local Coverage Article (LCA) titled Billing and Coding: Complex Drug Administration (A58620)**

Directors

**Kostas Botsoglou, MD**  
Director

**Mark Box, MD**  
Director

**Aaron Broadwell, MD**  
Director

**Adrienne Burford Foggs, MD**  
Director

**Sarah Doaty, MD**  
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Headquarter Office

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CGS Administrators, LLC

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26 Century Blvd.  
Ste. ST610

**Michael Saitta, MD, MBA**  
Treasurer

Nashville, TN 37214-3685

**Michael S. Brooks, MD, FACP, FACR**  
Secretary

**RE: Local Coverage Articles titled Billing and Coding: Complex Drug Administration (A58526)**

Directors

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Director

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