



NCD Communication to Membership

On March 6, 2024, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released a decision memo on the agency's National Coverage Determination (NCD) reconsideration of Allogeneic Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation (HSCT) for Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS). ASTCT members, in partnership with ASH, BMT CTN, CIBMTR, and NMDP, advocated on behalf of patients by submitting [comments](#) to the to the NCD reconsideration for MDS in January 2024.

In the final decision CMS expanded Medicare coverage for HSCT using bone marrow, peripheral blood or umbilical cord blood stem cell products for patients with MDS. The treatment was proven reasonable and necessary. However, in the process of operationalizing those changes, CMS inadvertently created several claims processing issues, including limiting MDS transplants to inpatients and restricting physician selection of donor sources. ASTCT met with CMS in early 2025 to request a correction to these issues. ASTCT is pleased to report that CMS released Transmittal 13097 (CR 13939) on March 20, 2025 with updates. We recommend program administrators review the transmittal:

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/r13097otn.pdf>. If your organization has experienced claim denials for these issues, resubmit the claim to your Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) for reprocessing. CMS has reflected these corrections along with additional updates to the NCD spreadsheets released with the Transmittal, for both HSCT and CAR-T (see Section II.B. for the zip file link or click [here](#)).

ASTCT appreciates the opportunity to weigh in with the agency and to work with them on getting these issues quickly corrected for patient access to lifesaving therapies. For any additional questions or information, please reach out to info@astct.org.