Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, HHS

§ 426.525 NCD review.

(a) Opportunity for the aggrieved party after his or her review of the NCD record to state why the NCD is not valid. Upon receipt of the NCD record, the aggrieved party files a statement explaining why the NCD record is not complete, or not adequate to support the validity of the NCD under the reasonableness standard. This statement must be submitted to the Board and CMS, within 30 days (or within additional time as allowed by the Board for good cause shown) of the date the aggrieved party receives the NCD record.

(b) CMS response. CMS has 30 days, after receiving the aggrieved party’s statement, to submit a response to the Board in order to defend the NCD.

(c) Board evaluation. (1) After the aggrieved party files a statement and CMS responds as described in §426.525(a) and §426.525(b), or the time for filing has expired, the Board applies the reasonableness standard to determine whether the NCD record is complete and adequate to support the validity of the NCD.

(2) Issuance of a decision finding the record complete and adequate to support the validity of the NCD ends the review process.

(3) If the Board determines that the NCD record is not complete and adequate to support the validity of the NCD, the Board permits discovery and the taking of evidence in accordance with §426.532 and §426.540, and evaluate the NCD in accordance with §426.531.

(d) The process described in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this section applies when an NCD record has been supplemented, except that discovery and the taking of evidence is not repeated. The period for the aggrieved party to file a statement begins when
§ 426.531 Board’s review of the NCD to apply the reasonableness standard.

(a) Required steps. The Board must do the following to review the provision(s) listed in the aggrieved party’s complaint based on the reasonableness standard:

(1) Confine the NCD review to the provision(s) of the NCD raised in the aggrieved party’s complaint.

(2) Conduct a hearing unless the matter can be decided on the written record.

(3) Close the NCD review record to the taking of evidence.

(4) Treat as precedential any previous Board decision made under § 426.547 that involves the same NCD provision(s), same specific issue and facts in question, and the same clinical conditions.

(5) Issue a decision as described in § 426.547.

(b) Optional steps. The Board may consult with appropriate scientific or clinical experts concerning clinical and scientific evidence to apply the reasonableness standard to the provision(s) listed in the aggrieved party’s complaint.

(c) Authority for the Board in NCD reviews when applying the reasonableness standard. In applying the reasonableness standard to a provision (or provisions) of an NCD, the Board must follow all applicable laws and regulations, as well as NCDs other than the one under review.

§ 426.532 Discovery.

(a) General rule. If the Board orders discovery, the Board must establish a reasonable timeframe for discovery.

(b) Protective order—(1) Request for a protective order. Any party receiving a discovery request may file a motion for a protective order before the date of production of the discovery.

(2) The Board granting of a protective order. The Board may grant a motion for a protective order if it finds that the discovery sought—

(i) Is irrelevant or unduly repetitive;

(ii) Is unduly costly or burdensome; or

(iii) Will unduly delay the proceeding.

(c) Types of discovery available. A party may obtain discovery via a request for the production of documents, and/or via the submission of up to 10 written interrogatory questions, relating to a specific NCD.

(d) Types of documents. For the purpose of this section, the term documents includes relevant information, reports, answers, records, accounts, papers, and other data and documentary evidence. Nothing contained in this section will be interpreted to require the creation of a document.

(e) Types of discovery not available. Requests for admissions, depositions, or any other forms of discovery, other than those permitted under paragraph (c) of this section, are not authorized.

(f) Privileged information or proprietary data. The Board must not under any circumstances order the disclosure of privileged information or proprietary data filed under seal without the consent of the party who possesses the right to protection of the information.

(g) Notification. The Board notifies all parties in writing when the discovery period will be closed.

§ 426.535 Subpoenas.

(a) Purpose of a subpoena. A subpoena requires the attendance of an individual at a hearing and may also require a party to produce evidence authorized under § 426.540 at or before the hearing.

(b) Filing a motion for a subpoena. A party seeking a subpoena must file a written motion with the Board not less than 30 days before the date fixed for the hearing. The motion must do all of the following:

(1) Designate the witnesses.

(2) Specify any evidence to be produced.

(3) Describe the address and location with sufficient particularity to permit the witnesses to be found.

(4) State the pertinent facts that the party expects to establish by witnesses or documents and state whether those facts could be established by evidence other than by the use of a subpoena.

(c) Response to a motion for a subpoena. Within 15 days after the written