

§ 426.531

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 the aggrieved party receives the supplement.

§ 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

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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.