



MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY

March 25, 2010

Louis B. Jacques, MD
Director, Division of Items and Devices
Coverage & Analysis Group, OCSQ
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Mailstop C1-09-06
7500 Security Blvd
Baltimore MD 21244

re: Formal Request for a National Coverage Determination (NCD) for Recombinant human erythropoietin (rHuEPO, or epoetin) for treatment of chronic kidney disease and dialysis-related anemia

Dear Dr. Jacques:

Now that the Medicare Evidence Development & Coverage Advisory Committee (MEDCAC) has reviewed the science-base and issued its recommendations, I'm writing to request that CMS proceed with the NCD process. At MTPPI's next Technical Advisory Committee meeting we will present our findings related to the composite mortality-CV (MI, stroke, and CHF) risks related to epoetin exposure among diabetic and non-diabetic elderly hemodialysis patients.

Because our NCD request is based principally on a serious patient safety matter, we hope that the NCD process will proceed with all deliberate speed.

Sincerely,


Dennis Cotter

President