

§ 426.460

- (2) The LCD and LCD record.
- (3) The supplemental LCD record, if applicable.
- (4) Transcripts of record.
- (5) Any other relevant evidence gathered under § 426.440.
- (6) The ALJ's decision.
- (b) *Elements of the ALJ's LCD review record furnished to the Board under seal.* The ALJ's review record must include, under seal, any proprietary data or privileged information maintained under seal, and such data or information must not be included in the review record furnished to the public.

§ 426.460 Effect of an ALJ's decision.

(a) *Valid under the reasonableness standard.* If the ALJ finds that the provision or provisions of the LCD named in the complaint is (are) valid under the reasonableness standard, the aggrieved party or parties may appeal that (those) part(s) of the ALJ decision to the Board under § 426.465.

(b) *Not valid under the reasonableness standard.* If the ALJ finds that the provision or provisions of the LCD named in the complaint is (are) invalid under the reasonableness standard, and no appeal is filed by the contractor or CMS under § 426.465(b), the contractor, the M + C organization, or other Medicare managed care organization must provide the following—

(1) *Individual claim review.* (i) If neither the contractor nor CMS appeals the ALJ decision under § 426.425(b), and if the party's claim or appeal(s) was previously denied, the contractor, an M + C organization or another Medicare managed care organization must reopen the claim of the party who challenged the LCD and adjudicate the claim without using the provision(s) of the LCD that the ALJ found invalid.

(ii) If a revised LCD is issued, the contractor, the M + C organization, and any other Medicare managed care organization within the contractor's jurisdiction uses the revised LCD in reviewing claim or appeal submissions or request for services delivered or services performed on or after the effective date of the revised LCD.

(iii) If the aggrieved party who sought the review has not yet submitted a claim, the contractor adjudicates the claim without using the

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provision(s) of the LCD that the ALJ found invalid.

(iv) In either case, the claim and any subsequent claims for the service provided under the same circumstances is adjudicated without using the LCD provision(s) found invalid.

(2) *Coverage determination relief.* If neither the contractor nor CMS appeals the ALJ decision under § 426.425(b), the contractor implements the ALJ decision within 30 days. Any change in policy applies prospectively to requests for service or claims filed with dates of service after the implementation of the ALJ decision.

§ 426.462 Notice of an ALJ's decision.

After the ALJ has made a decision regarding an LCD complaint, the ALJ sends a written notice of the decision to each party. The notice must—

(a) State the outcome of the review; and

(b) Inform each party to the determination of his or her rights to seek further review if he or she is dissatisfied with the determination, and the time limit under which an appeal must be requested.

§ 426.463 Future new or revised LCDs.

The contractor may not reinstate an LCD provision(s) found to be unreasonable unless the contractor has a different basis (such as additional evidence) than what the ALJ evaluated.

§ 426.465 Appealing part or all of an ALJ's decision.

(a) *Circumstances under which an aggrieved party may appeal part or all of an ALJ's decision.* An aggrieved party (including one or more aggrieved parties named in a joint complaint and an aggrieved party who is part of a consolidated LCD review) may appeal to the Board any part of an ALJ's decision that does the following:

(1) States that a provision of an LCD is valid under the reasonableness standard; or

(2) Dismisses a complaint regarding an LCD (except as prohibited in paragraph (b) of this section).

(b) *Circumstance under which a contractor or CMS may appeal part or all of an ALJ's decision.* A contractor or CMS may appeal to the Board any part of an