



# Louisiana Ambulance Alliance

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## MEMO

8/17/15

**From: Curry Landry**  
**To: Donna Newchurch**

**RE: Novitas Ground Ambulance LCD Revisions**

Dear All,

Recently, Novitas released three separate documents concerning the Ground Ambulance Local Coverage Determinations and the use of ICD-10 codes. All of the documents can be accessed via links in this report. You can also review the comment letter the Alliance sent Novitas earlier this year.

The revised Ground Ambulance LCD (L35162) which was released last week, has a few changes from the original. I highlighted and made notes to show the changes in the document. The first change is that there is no longer a requirement for a KX modifier to be reported on a claim for service to be considered for coverage.

Another revision is that the GY Modifier is acknowledged in this revised document. The older version stated that the secondary diagnosis code, Z76.89, should be reported for patients who were transported by ambulance, but did not require the services of an ambulance. The revised LCD states that the GY modifier should be appended to this code.

Novitas also released a document, Local Area Coverage Article A54574, which it references several times in LCD L35162. This document provides a list of suggested ICD-10 codes that may be reported as primary diagnosis codes for 1) transports to acute care, or for the transport on to another facility for specialty or other care, and 2) post-treatment transfer (e.g. transfer to home, nursing facility, SNF, IRF, IPP). I believe that Novitas is trying to use this document as a crosswalk from ICD-9 to ICD-10, but it is still a lot of new codes. There are 276 listed codes in the article for acute care/specialty care transport, and 82 codes listed for post-treatment transfer.

Although these are suggested codes, Novitas did add a disclaimer that “the ICD-10-CM codes provided in this Article do not represent an all-inclusive list of acceptable diagnoses. Due to the large number of diagnosis codes available, the codes are being provided only as a list of suggested diagnoses codes in an effort to assist providers/suppliers. Providers/suppliers may choose a diagnosis code from the provided list in the coding section of this Article to report as the primary diagnosis code or they may choose a diagnosis code from the ICD-10-CM manual that accurately depicts the patient’s condition at the time of transport.”

Finally, Novitas issued a document containing comments received on the new LCD and the contractor's responses to these comments.

This Ground Ambulance LCD (L35162) will be effective for services performed on or after 10/01/2015.