

# MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENT FOR STAAR'S NEW TECHNOLOGY IOL

**1**

**QUESTION:** What is an NTIOL?

**ANSWER:** In 1994, Congress directed the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA<sup>1</sup>) to establish regulations to recognize new technology intraocular lenses (NTIOLs) for additional reimbursement. On June 16, 1999, HCFA published final regulations, which outlined the application process for manufacturers as well as the payment methodology for ASCs.

**2**

**QUESTION:** Who determines which IOLs are considered new technology?

**ANSWER:** CMS designates lenses as NTIOLs based on FDA approved labeling, as well as consideration of whether the lens is likely to yield clinical advantages such as less dependency on postcataract glasses, improved postoperative acuity, or reduced astigmatism. CMS has determined that the Afinity™ Collamer® Aspheric IOL lens fits into a category they call "reduced spherical aberration".

**3**

**QUESTION:** Which intraocular lenses have NTIOL status?

**ANSWER:** On March 17, 2008, CMS published a notice on its web site identifying the STAAR Surgical Afinity™ Collamer® Aspheric IOL model CQ2015A as an approved NTIOL. Recently, models AQ2015A and CC4204A have also been approved.

**4**

**QUESTION:** How much additional reimbursement can be expected?

**ANSWER:** The NTIOL premium is \$50. This is in addition to the facility fee for implanting traditional monofocal lenses.

**5**

**QUESTION:** Does CMS' new ASC payment system eliminate the NTIOL premium?

**ANSWER:** No. The existing regulation concerning NTIOLs remains in place with no changes. NTIOL status for IOLs that qualify as "reduced spherical aberration" is effective through February 26, 2011.

**6**

**QUESTION:** How do ASCs file claims for cataract surgery with NTIOLs?

**ANSWER:** ASCs add a second line to the claim with a special HCPCS code, Q1003, for the reduced spherical aberration NTIOL. See below for a sample claim.

**7**

**QUESTION:** Do hospitals receive the \$50 premium for NTIOLs?

**ANSWER:** No. At this time, there is no extra payment for hospitals when they use the Afinity Collamer Aspheric lens or any other NTIOL.

### Sample Claim for ASC

21 1. 366.16					
24a	24b	24d	24e	24f	24g
mm/dd/yyyy	24	66984	1	\$\$\$\$	1
mm/dd/yyyy	24	Q1003	1	\$50.00	1

**August 12, 2008**

<sup>1</sup> As of June 14, 2001, the federal agency known as the *Health Care Financing Administration* (HCFA) has become the *Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services* (CMS).

The reader is strongly encouraged to review official instructions promulgated by Medicare and other payers; this document is *not an official source* nor is it a complete guide on all matters pertaining to reimbursement. The reader is also reminded that this information can and does change over time, and may be incorrect at any time following publication.