

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



November 22, 2016

JoAnn Lindenfeld, MD, President
Heart Failure Society of America
6707 Democracy Blvd., Suite 925
Bethesda, MD 20817

Richard A. Chazal, MD, President
American College of Cardiology
Heart House
2400 N Street NW
Washington, DC 20037

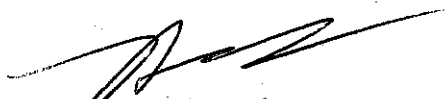
Dear Dr. Lindenfeld and Dr. Chazal:

I am writing in response to a Medicare physician specialty code request submitted by the Heart Failure Society of America, and the American College of Cardiology, requesting a physician specialty code for advanced heart failure and transplant cardiologists, consistent with the process described in the Medicare Internet-Only Manual (IOM) Pub. 100-04, Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 26, Section 10.8.

After reviewing the information submitted with the request and based on our research, we are approving a unique specialty code for "Advanced Heart Failure and Transplant Cardiology." This approval has been communicated to the operational divisions that will assign the new specialty code, develop appropriate system changes, and schedule implementation. Please note that the implementation process can take up to a year to complete. Additional information will be forthcoming including a transmittal and Medicare Learning Network article.

I appreciate your interest in the Medicare program and look forward to discussing topics of mutual interest in the future. I can be reached at (410) 786-3355 or via email at ryan.howe@cms.hhs.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Ryan Howe, PhD, Director
Division of Practitioner Services

RH/kmk