

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



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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](mailto:ryan.howe@cms.hhs.gov) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Howe", is written over a horizontal line.

Ryan Howe, PhD, Director  
Division of Practitioner Services

RH/kmk

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