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American  
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The Society for Cardiovascular  
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Working collaboratively to ensure appropriate care for the PAD patient



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**SVS**

Society for  
Vascular Surgery



VASCULAR  
INTERVENTIONAL  
ADVANCES

October 14, 2016

Tamara Syrek Jensen, JD  
Director  
Coverage and Analysis Group  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 21244

**RE: National Coverage Analysis (NCA) Tracking Sheet for Supervised Exercise Therapy (SET) for Symptomatic Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD) (CAG-00449N).**

Dear Ms. Syrek Jensen:

We are delighted to submit this collaborative letter to support the National Coverage Determination to establish a benefit for Supervised Exercise Therapy (SET) for symptomatic peripheral artery disease (PAD). This letter is endorsed by the American College of Cardiology (ACC), American College of Radiology (ACR), American Heart Association (AHA), Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI), Society of Interventional Radiology (SIR), Society for Vascular Medicine (SVM), Society for Vascular Surgery (SVS), and VIVA Physicians (VIVA). Collectively, these groups encompass the broad and diverse vascular medical, interventional, and surgical community, and represent more than 150,000 members who routinely manage patients with PAD.

Symptomatic PAD is associated with pain, reduced quality of life, and reduced participation in the workforce. Supervised exercise training for this condition has been shown to result in significant improvement in pain-free walking, maximum walking time, maximum walking distance and quality of life.<sup>1</sup> A meta-analysis of 27 studies demonstrated that supervised exercise is effective at improving maximum walking and initial claudication distance.<sup>2</sup> The benefit for supervised exercise therapy has also been noted in the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Technical Report, 'Treatment Strategies for Patients With Peripheral Artery Disease.' Furthermore, the multispecialty community concurs as offered in our joint and individual societal guidelines by providing the highest recommendation (class I) for supervised exercise therapy for symptomatic PAD.

**Therefore, we strongly recommend coverage of supervised exercise training for Medicare patients with symptomatic PAD.** Please contact Michael R. Jaff, DO at 617-726-3784 or mjaff@partners.org if the societies can be of further assistance in the coverage development process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

American College of Cardiology  
American College of Radiology  
American Heart Association  
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Intervention  
Society of Interventional Radiology  
Society for Vascular Medicine  
Society for Vascular Surgery  
VIVA Physicians

## References

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<sup>1</sup> Saskia P.A. Nicolai, Joep A.W. Teijink, Martin H. Prins, Exercise Therapy in Peripheral Arterial Disease (EXITPAD) study group. Multicenter randomized clinical trial of supervised exercise therapy with or without feedback versus walking advice for intermittent claudication. *J Vasc Surg.* 2010;52:348–355.

<sup>2</sup> Jones WS, Schmit KM, Vemulapalli S, et al. Treatment Strategies for Patients With Peripheral Artery Disease. Comparative Effectiveness Review No. 118. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Rockville, MD, May 2013.  
<https://www.effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/ehc/products/368/1518/peripheral-artery-disease-treatment-executive-130525.pdf>