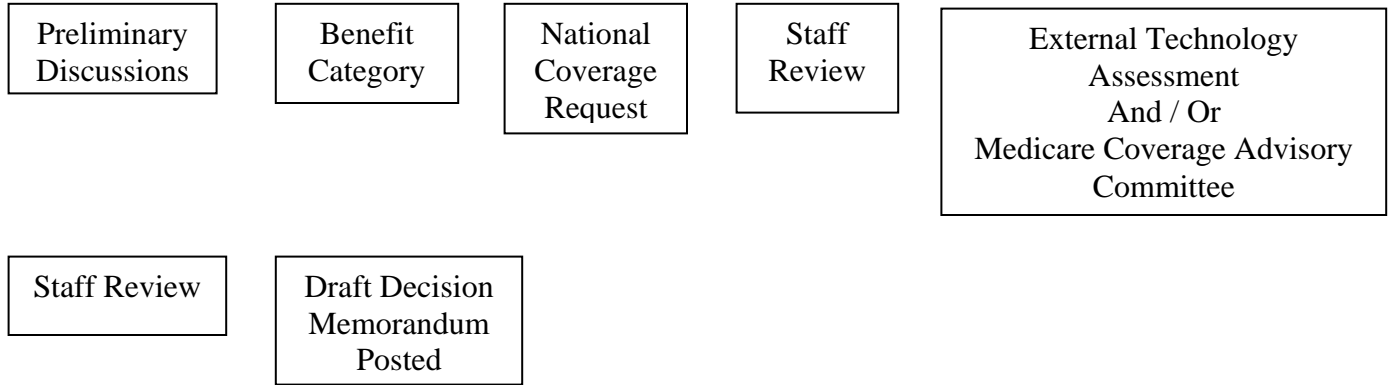
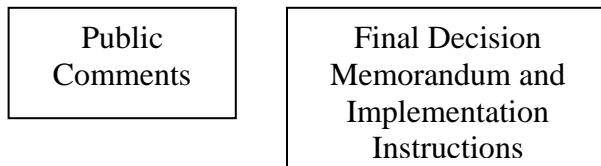


MEDICARE NATIONAL COVERAGE PROCESS

The Medicare National Coverage Process is a nine (9) month process. For the initial six (6) months, the following phases often include the following in the order listed:



The final three (3) months of the Medicare National Coverage Process include a thirty (30) day Public Comments phase, followed by a sixty (60) day requirement to complete the Final Decision Memorandum and Implementation Instructions phase.



Upon completion of the Final Decision Memorandum and Implementation Instructions phase, two (2) further phases are possible: the Final Decision Memorandum and Implementation phase initiates an appeal or the Reconsideration phase will further initiate the Preliminary Discussions phase.

