



Related MLN Matters Article #: MM5913

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New Waived Tests

Key Words

MM5913, CR5913, R1477CP, Waived, Tests

Provider Types Affected

Physicians, providers and suppliers who bill Medicare Carriers or Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs) for clinical diagnostic laboratory services

Key Points

- The effective date of the instruction is April 1, 2008.
- The implementation date is April 7, 2008.
- The list of tests approved by the Food and Drug Administration as waived tests under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA) has been updated.
- This list of newly added waived tests and their effective dates may be found on pages 2-3 of MLN Matters article MM5913, which can be viewed at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5913.pdf> on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website.
- Providers should note that the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes for these tests must have the QW modifier to be recognized as a waived test.
- The CPT codes that do not require the QW modifier in order to be recognized as waived tests are also included on pages 4-5 in MM5913.
- CLIA regulations require a facility to be appropriately certified for each test they perform.
- Laboratory claims are edited at the CLIA certificate level in order to ensure that CMS only pays for laboratory tests categorized as waived complexity under CLIA in facilities with a CLIA certificate of waiver.

Additional Information on New Waived Tests

- The new waived CPT/ Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code, 80047QW, has been assigned for the ionized calcium, carbon dioxide, chloride, creatinine, glucose, potassium, sodium, and urea nitrogen tests performed using the Abbott i-STAT Chem8+ Cartridge {Whole Blood}.

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- This CPT code may be used for claims submitted by facilities with a valid, current CLIA certificate of waiver with dates of service on or after January 1, 2008.
- The new waived CPT/HCPCS code, 80048QW, has been assigned for the calcium, carbon dioxide, chloride, creatinine, glucose, potassium, sodium, and urea nitrogen tests performed using the Abaxis Piccolo Blood Chemistry Analyzer (Basic Metabolic Reagent Disc){Whole Blood} and the Abaxis Piccolo xpress Chemistry Analyzer (Basic Metabolic Reagent Disc){Whole Blood}. This CPT code may be used for claims with dates of service on or after January 16, 2008, submitted by facilities with a valid, current CLIA certificate of waiver.
- The new waived CPT/HCPCS code, 80051QW, has been assigned for the carbon dioxide, chloride, potassium, and sodium tests performed using the Abaxis Piccolo Blood Chemistry Analyzer (Basic Metabolic Reagent Disc){Whole Blood}, the Abaxis Piccolo Blood Chemistry Analyzer (Comprehensive Metabolic Reagent Disc){Whole Blood} and the Abaxis Piccolo Blood Chemistry Analyzer (Electrolyte Metabolic Reagent Disc){Whole Blood}. This CPT code may be used for claims submitted by facilities with a valid, current CLIA certificate of waiver with dates of service on or after October 30, 2007.
- The new waived CPT/HCPCS code, 80053QW, has been assigned for the alanine amino transferase, aspartate amino transferase, albumin, total bilirubin, total calcium, carbon dioxide, chloride, creatinine, glucose, alkaline phosphatase, potassium, total protein, sodium, and urea nitrogen tests performed using the Abaxis Piccolo Blood Chemistry Analyzer (Comprehensive Metabolic Reagent Disc){Whole Blood} and the Abaxis Piccolo xpress Chemistry Analyzer (Comprehensive Metabolic Reagent Disc){Whole Blood}. This CPT code may be used for claims with dates of service on or after January 16, 2008, submitted by facilities with a valid, current CLIA certificate of waiver.

Operational Impact

- Medicare Carriers or A/B MACs will not automatically adjust claims processed prior to the implementation of these changes. However, they will adjust such claims that are brought to their attention.

Important Links

The related MLN Matters article can be found at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5913.pdf> on the CMS website.

The official instruction (CR5913) regarding this change may be viewed at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1477CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

For more information about CLIA, providers can refer to

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CLIA/01_Overview.asp#TopOfPage on the CMS website.

If providers have questions regarding this issue, they may contact their carrier or A/B MAC at their toll-free number, which may be found at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website.