



Provider Inquiry Assistance

New Waived Tests – JA6060

Related CR Release Date : June 20, 2008

Date Job Aid Revised: July 10, 2008

Effective Date: July 1, 2008

Implementation Date: July 7, 2008

Key Words	MM6060, CR6060, R1538CP, New, Waived, Tests
Contractors Affected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicare Carriers • Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs)
Provider Types Affected	Providers and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare Carriers and/or A/B MACs for clinical laboratory services provided to Medicare beneficiaries



Change Request (CR) 6060 informs Medicare contractors of new waived tests approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) under Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA).

Provider Needs to Know...

- The latest new tests approved by the FDA as waived tests under CLIA are included in the table starting on page 2 of MLN Matters article MM6060.
- The Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes for these new tests must have the modifier QW to be recognized as a waived test.
- The new waived CPT/Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code(s):
 - 84550QW has been assigned for the uric acid test performed using the Abaxis Piccolo Blood Chemistry Analyzer (General Chemistry 13 Panel){Whole Blood} and the Abaxis Piccolo xpress Chemistry Analyzer (General Chemistry 13 Panel){Whole Blood}; and
 - 82330QW, 82374QW, 82435QW, 84132QW and 84295QW have been assigned for the ionized calcium, carbon dioxide, chloride, potassium, and sodium tests performed using the Abbott i-STAT Chem8+Cartridge {Whole Blood}.

- CR6060 also includes an attachment listing tests granted waived status under CLIA. The tests mentioned on the first page of the attachment (i.e., CPT codes: 81002, 81025, 82270, 82272, G0394, 82962, 83026, 84830, 85013, and 85651) do not require a QW modifier to be recognized as a waived test.
 - The effective date for the following CPT/HCPCS codes previously mentioned in CR5913 was revised from January 16, 2008, to October 30, 2007:
 - 80048QW for the 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}; and
 - 80053QW for the 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}.
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Background

CLIA regulations require a facility to be appropriately certified for each test performed. To ensure that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) only pay for laboratory tests categorized as waived complexity under CLIA in facilities with a CLIA certificate of waiver, laboratory claims are currently edited at the CLIA certificate level.

**Operational
Impact**

Contractors will not search their files to either retract payment or retroactively pay claims. They will adjust claims that are brought to their attention.

Reference Materials

The related MLN Matters article can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6060.pdf> on the CMS website.

The official instruction (CR6060) issued regarding this change may be viewed at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1538CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

The related MLN matters article for CR5913 may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5913.pdf> on the CMS website.
