



Provider Inquiry Assistance

New Waived Tests – JA6685

Related CR Release Date: November 20, 2009

Date Job Aid Revised: December 7, 2009

Effective Date: January 1, 2010

Implementation Date: January 4, 2010

Key Words MM6685, CR6685, R1857CP, Waived, Tests

Contractors Affected

- Medicare Carriers
- Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs)

Provider Types Affected Provider types affected are clinical diagnostic laboratories billing Medicare Carriers or A/B MACs for laboratory tests.



- Change Request (CR) 6685 informs carriers and A/B MACs about the latest new Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes that are subject to Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1998 (CLIA) edits.
- If a provider does not have a valid, current, CLIA certificate and submits a claim to its Medicare Carrier or A/B MAC for a CPT code that is considered to be a laboratory test requiring a CLIA certificate, the Medicare payment may be impacted.

- Listed below are the latest tests approved by the Food and Drug Administration as waived tests under CLIA. The tests are valid as soon as they are approved.
- The CPT codes for the following new tests MUST have the modifier QW to be recognized as a waived test.

Provider Needs to Know...

CPT Code	Effective Date	Description
80101QW	March 10, 2009	Amedica Biotech Amedica Drug Screen Test Cup
80101QW	May 11, 2009	Twin Spirit, Inc. DrugSmart Cup
84443QW	June 3, 2009	CLIAwaived Inc. Thyroid Test Rapid TSH Cassette (Whole Blood)
86308QW	July 16, 2009	ProAdvantage by NDC Infectious Mononucleosis Test Device (Whole Blood Only)
86318QW	August 7, 2009	Pro-Advantage by NDC H. pylori Device (Whole Blood)
87804QW	August 18, 2009	BinaxNOW Influenza A & B Test, K092223

- Only tests with the following CPT codes **DO NOT require a QW** modifier to be recognized as a waived test: 81002, 81025, 82270, 82272, 82962, 83026, 84830, 85013, and 85651.
- For 2009, the description for the CPT code 84155 was **modified from** "Protein, total, except by refractometry; serum" **to** "Protein, total, except by refractometry; serum, plasma or whole blood." Therefore, the CPT codes assigned for the total protein test performed on the following test systems have been changed from 84157QW to 84155QW:
 - Abaxis Piccolo Blood Chemistry Analyzer (General Chemistry 13 Panel){Whole Blood},
 - Abaxis Piccolo xpress Chemistry Analyzer (General Chemistry 13 Panel){Whole Blood},
 - Abaxis Piccolo Point of Care Chemistry Analyzer (Liver Panel Plus Reagent Disc){whole blood},
 - Abaxis Piccolo xpress Chemistry Analyzer {Liver Panel Plus} (Whole Blood), and
 - Arkay SPOTCHEM EZ Chemistry Analyzer (Spotchem II Basicpanel 2){Whole Blood}.
- As a result, Medicare will permit the use of 84155QW for claims submitted by facilities with a valid and current CLIA certificate of waiver with dates of service on or after January 1, 2009. However, Medicare will deny the use of code 84157QW from such facilities with the dates of service on or after January 1, 2010.

Background

- CLIA requires that for each test it performs, a laboratory facility must be appropriately certified.
- The CPT codes that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services considers to be laboratory tests under CLIA (therefore, requiring certification) change periodically.

Operational Impact

Medicare Carriers and A/B MACs will not search their files to adjust claims affected by this change, but processed prior to the implementation of CR6685. However, they will adjust such 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/MM6685.pdf> on the CMS website.

The official instruction (CR6685) issued regarding this change may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1857CP.pdf> on the CMS website.