



## New Waived Tests – JA6287

Related CR Release Date: December 19, 2008

Date Job Aid Revised: December 30, 2008

Effective Date: January 1, 2009

Implementation Date: January 5, 2009

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**Key Words** MM6287, CR6287, R1652CP, Waived, Tests

**Contractors Affected**

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

**Provider Types Affected** Clinical laboratories and providers that submit claims to Medicare Carriers and/or A/B MACs for laboratory test services provided to Medicare beneficiaries

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The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has listed the latest tests approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as waived tests under Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA).

**Provider Needs to Know...**

- Listed below are the latest tests approved by the FDA as waived tests under CLIA. The Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes for the following new tests must have the modifier QW to be recognized as a waived test.
- However, the tests mentioned on the first page at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CLIA/downloads/waivetbl.pdf> (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.

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CPT Code	Effective Date	Description
83036QW	October 11, 2007	Siemens Medical Diagnostics DCA Vantage Analyzer
81003QW	May 28, 2008	Henry Schein OneStepPlus Urine Analyzer
82274QW G0328QW	July 1, 2008	Germaine Laboratories Compliance Gold iFOB (immunological fecal occult blood) Test
82274QW G0328QW	July 1, 2008	Beckman Coulter Hemocult ICT (K080812)
82274QW G0328QW	July 22, 2008	BTNX Inc. Rapid Response Immunological Fecal Occult Blood Test (IFOBT)
80101QW	July 31, 2008	Aventir Biotech LLC Home Check Multiple Drug Cup Test
80101QW	August 18, 2008	American Bio Medica Rapid TOX
83986QW	September 18, 2008	Common Sense Ltd. VA-SENSE Kit

- For 2009, the new CPT code 87905 was developed for infectious agent enzymatic activity other than virus (e.g., sialidase activity in vaginal fluid) testing.
- Therefore, the CPT code assigned to the Gryphus Diagnostics BVBlue test and the Genzyme Diagnostics OSOM BVBlue Test is changed to 87905QW with an effective date of January 1, 2009.

**Background**

- CLIA regulations require a facility to be appropriately certified for each test performed. To ensure that Medicare and Medicaid 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.
- CMS identifies CLIA waived tests by providing an updated list of waived tests to the Medicare contractors on a quarterly basis via a recurring update notification.
- To be recognized as a waived test, some CLIA waived tests have unique Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) procedure codes, and some must have a QW modifier included with the HCPCS code.
- Providers may view the list of specific HCPCS codes subject to CLIA at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CLIA/downloads/waivetbl.pdf> on the CMS website.

**Operational Impact**

Contractors will not search their files to either retract payment or retroactively pay claims processed before Change Request (CR) 6287 is implemented. **However, they will adjust such claims if brought to their attention**

**Reference  
Materials**

The related MLN Matters article can be found at  
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6287.pdf> on the CMS  
website.

The official instruction (CR6287) issued regarding this change may be found at  
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1652CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

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