



Provider Inquiry Assistance

New Waived Tests – JA6459

Related CR Release Date: June 5, 2009

Date Job Aid Revised: June 12, 2009

Effective Date: July 1, 2009

Implementation Date: July 6, 2009

Key Words	MM6459, CR6459, R1751CP, Waived, Test
Contractors Affected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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



Change Request (CR) 6459 alerts providers that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has listed the twelve latest tests approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as waived tests under Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA).

- Listed below are the latest tests approved by the FDA as waived tests under CLIA.
- The tests are valid as soon as they are approved.
- The Current Procedural Terminology (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
87880QW	September 25, 2008	Quidel QuickVue In-Line Strep A {direct from throat swab}(K934484/A013)
80069QW	December 4, 2008	Abaxis Piccolo Blood Chemistry Analyzer (Piccolo Renal Function Panel){Whole Blood}
80069QW	December 4, 2008	Abaxis Piccolo xpress Chemistry Analyzer (Piccolo Renal Function Panel){Whole Blood}
82374QW, 82435QW, 82550QW, 82565QW, 82947QW, 84132QW, 84295QW, 84520QW	December 4, 2008	Abaxis Piccolo Blood Chemistry Analyzer (Piccolo Metlyte 8 Panel Reagent Disc) {Whole Blood}
82374QW, 82435QW, 82550QW, 82565QW, 82947QW, 84132QW, 84295QW, 84520QW	December 4, 2008	Abaxis Piccolo xpress Chemistry Analyzer (Piccolo Metlyte 8 Panel Reagent Disc) {Whole Blood}
81003QW	January 5, 2009	Jant Pharmacal Corporation Accustrip URS Reader
80101QW	January 5, 2009	Aventir Biotech LLC Home Check Multiple Drug Cup Test {Professional version}
80101QW	January 5, 2009	Syntron Bioresearch Quikscreen Multiple Drug Cup Test {Professional version}

- The new waived CPT code, 80069QW, has been assigned for the albumin, total calcium, carbon dioxide, chloride, creatinine, glucose, phosphorus, potassium, sodium and urea nitrogen tests performed using the Abaxis Piccolo Blood Chemistry Analyzer (Piccolo Renal Function Panel){Whole Blood} and the Abaxis Piccolo xpress Chemistry Analyzer (Piccolo Renal Function Panel){Whole Blood}.
- The new waived CPT code, 82550QW, has been assigned for the creatine kinase test performed using the Abaxis Piccolo Blood Chemistry Analyzer (Piccolo Metlyte 8 Panel Reagent Disc) {Whole Blood} and the Abaxis Piccolo xpress Chemistry Analyzer (Piccolo Metlyte 8 Panel Reagent Disc) {Whole Blood}.
- For 2009, the description for CPT code 82040 was modified from albumin; serum to albumin; serum, plasma or whole blood. Therefore, the CPT code assigned to the whole blood albumin tests performed on the following test systems has been changed from 82042QW (albumin; urine or other source quantitative, each specimen) to 82040QW with an effective date of January 1, 2009:
 - Abaxis Piccolo Point of Care Chemistry Analyzer (Liver Panel Plus Reagent Disc){whole blood},
 - Abaxis Piccolo xpress Chemistry Analyzer {Liver Panel Plus} (Whole Blood),
 - Arkay SPOTCHEM EZ Chemistry Analyzer (Spotchem II Basicpanel 1){Whole

Blood},

- Abaxis Piccolo Blood Chemistry Analyzer (General Chemistry 13 Panel){Whole Blood}, and
- Abaxis Piccolo xpress Chemistry Analyzer (General Chemistry 13 Panel){Whole Blood}.
- The Medicare contractor will deny the use of code 82042QW for claims submitted by facilities with a valid, current CLIA certificate of waiver with dates of service on or after July 1, 2009.
- Only CPT codes: 81002, 81025, 82270, 82272, 82962, 83026, 84830, 85013, and 85651) **DO NOT require a QW modifier** to be recognized as a waived test.

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.

**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 CR6459. However, they will adjust such claims that providers bring to their attention.

**Reference
Materials**

The related MLN Matters® article can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6459.pdf> on the CMS website.

The official instruction (CR6459) issued regarding this change may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1751CP.pdf> on the CMS website.
