

Payment New Clinical Laboratory Tests for 2007

Eleven codes for new clinical laboratory tests, established by the Current Procedural Technology (CPT) Editorial Panel, will become effective January 1, 2007. The new testing is for conditions such as liver cancer, heart disease, West Nile virus, and staphylococcus. To consider how payment levels for these tests should be established for 2007 Medicare Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) hosted a public meeting on July 17, 2006. Notice of the meeting was published in the **Federal Register** on May 26, 2006 and on the CMS website on June 19, 2006. Approximately 50 members of the public representing laboratories, manufacturers, medical societies and the press attended. Also, audio listening and a question and answer period was available to the public. Fourteen members of the public presented payment recommendations for the new codes.

CMS is providing a chart summarizing the new codes and the recommendations that were presented during the meeting. Numbering of the codes has not yet been finalized. The chart also displays CMS's proposed determinations regarding whether payment levels are to be established by gap-filling or by cross-walking and, if the latter, to which other code(s) the new test code would be cross-walked. CMS's proposed determinations are consistent with the public recommendations. Access to the current 2006 Medicare clinical laboratory fee schedule is available at www.cms.hhs.gov/ClinicalLabFeeSched Interested parties may submit written comments on the proposed payment determinations by September 26, 2006, to Anita Greenberg at Mail Stop C4-08-06, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore MD 21244-1850 or anita.greenberg@cms.hhs.gov

The 2007 clinical laboratory fee schedule will be effective for services delivered January 1 to December 31, 2007. CMS will issue instructions and fees to Medicare carriers/intermediaries for implementation of the 2007 clinical laboratory fee schedule on or after the last week of October 2006. Internet access to the instructions will be available at www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals The data file for the 2007 Medicare clinical laboratory fee schedule will be available on or after the third week of November 2006 at www.cms.hhs.gov/ClinicalLabFeeSched For questions, contact Anita Greenberg by phone 410-786-4601 or anita.greenberg@cms.hhs.gov