



News Flash –The *Second in Series: General Equivalence Mappings – ICD-9-CM to and from ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS Fact Sheet* (May 2009), which provides basic information about the General Equivalence Mappings (GEM) including possible users of the GEMs, why the GEMs are needed, and how the GEMs files are formatted as well as Reimbursement Mappings information, is now available in downloadable format from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Medicare Learning Network at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/Downloads/GEMs-CrosswalksBasicFAQ.pdf> on the CMS website.

MLN Matters® Number: MM6459

Related Change Request (CR) #: 6459

Related CR Release Date: June 5, 2009

Effective Date: July 1, 2009

Related CR Transmittal #: R1751CP

Implementation Date: July 6, 2009

Note: This article was updated on December 20, 2012, to reflect current Web addresses. All other information remains unchanged.

New Waived Tests

Provider Types Affected

Clinical laboratories and providers that submit claims to Medicare carriers and/or Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for laboratory test services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

Provider Action Needed

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 6459 and 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). The tests newly added to the waived tests are in the table on page 2 of this article. Be sure your billing staff are aware of these changes.

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Background

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.

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

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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 shall 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.

Other Key Points:

- Only the following tests (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.
- Medicare carriers and MACs will not search their files to adjust claims affected by this change, but processed prior to the implementation of CR 6459. They will, however, adjust such claims that you bring to their attention.

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Additional Information

To see the official instruction (CR6459) issued to your Medicare Carrier and/or MAC refer to <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R1751CP.pdf> on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website.

If you have questions, please contact your Medicare Carrier and/or MAC at their toll-free number which may be found at <http://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/provider-compliance-interactive-map/index.html> on the CMS website.

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