

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



MLN Matters® Number: MM9471

Related Change Request (CR) #: CR 9471

Related CR Release Date: February 5, 2016

Effective Date: April 1, 2014

Related CR Transmittal #: R1619OTN

Implementation Date: For claims processed on or after July 5, 2016

Revision to Fiscal Intermediary Shared System (FISS) Lab Travel Allowance Editing to Include New Specimen Collection Code G0471

Provider Types Affected

This MLN Matters® Article is intended for independent clinical laboratories, Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) and Home Health Agencies (HHAs) submitting claims to Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for services to Medicare beneficiaries.

Provider Action Needed

Change Request (CR) 9471, from which this article was developed, updates Fiscal Intermediary Shared System (FISS) reason code 32436 to include HCPCS code G0471 in the list of specimen collection fee codes that will allow the travel allowance to be paid on outpatient claims. **Notify your MAC if your claims for lab travel allowance (HCPCS codes P9603 or P9604), for dates of service on or after April 1, 2014, were returned or rejected when billed with specimen collection fee HCPCS code G0471.**

Background

Medicare covers a specimen collection fee and travel allowance for laboratories that collect samples from nursing home or homebound patients (see detail in [Chapter 16](#), Section 60.2 of the “Medicare Claims Processing Manual”). FISS reason code 34236 requires a specimen collection fee Healthcare Common Procedure coding System (HCPCS) code to be present on all outpatient claims when a lab travel allowance HCPCS (P9603 or P9604) is also present.

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CR8837, issued August 29, 2014, provided instructions for adjusting payment for a sample collected from an individual in a Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) or by a laboratory on behalf of a Home Health Agency (HHA). CR9471 implements a new HCPCS code for specimen collection, G0471 – “Collection of venous blood by Venipuncture or urine sample by catheterization from an individual in a Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) or by a laboratory on behalf of a Home Health Agency (HHA).” It has come to CMS’ attention that claims for lab travel allowance codes P9603 and P9604 are being Returned to Providers (RTP) when billed with G0471.

CR9471 updates FISS reason code 32436 to include HCPCS code G0471 in the list of specimen collection fee codes that will allow the lab travel allowance to be paid on outpatient claims.

Note: Upon implementation of CR9471, your MAC will:

- Reprocess claims that are brought to their attention for dates of service on and after April 1, 2014, which were previously returned to you in error.
- Override timely filing, if necessary, to reprocess claims previously returned to you in error.

Additional Information

The official instruction, CR9471, issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R1619OTN.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your MAC at their toll-free number. That number is available at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/index.html> under - How Does It Work.

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