



News Flash - Test Your Medicare Claims Now! After you have submitted claims containing both National Provider Identifiers (NPIs) and legacy identifiers and those claims have been paid, Medicare urges you to send a small batch of claims now with only the NPI in the primary provider fields. If the results are positive, begin increasing the number of claims in the batch. (Reminder: For institutional claims, the primary provider fields are the Billing and Pay-to Provider fields. For professional claims, the primary provider fields are the Billing, Pay-to, and Rendering Provider fields. If the Pay-to Provider is the same as the Billing Provider, the Pay-to Provider does not need to be identified.)

MLN Matters® Number: MM5913 **Revised**

Related Change Request (CR) #: 5913

Related CR Release Date: March 14, 2008

Effective Date: April 1, 2008

Related CR Transmittal #: R1477CP

Implementation Date: April 7, 2008

New Waived Tests

Note: This article was updated on August 14, 2012, to reflect current Web addresses. All other information remains the same.

Provider Types Affected

Physicians, providers and suppliers who bill Medicare Carriers or Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs) for clinical diagnostic laboratory services.

What You Need to Know

The list of tests approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as waived tests under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA) has been updated.

Background

CLIA regulations require a facility to be appropriately certified for each test they perform. Laboratory claims are edited at the CLIA certificate level in order to ensure the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) pay only for

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laboratory tests categorized as waived complexity under CLIA by facilities with a CLIA certificate of waiver.

The chart below identifies the newly added waived tests and their effective dates. The Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes for these tests must have the QW modifier to be recognized as a waived test.

CPT Code	Effective Date	Description
87880QW	June 25, 2007	PSS World Medical Select Diagnostics Strep A Dipstick
86308QW	July 12, 2007	Signify Mono Cassette {Whole Blood}
86308QW	July 12, 2007	Poly Stat Mono Test {Whole Blood}
86308QW	July 12, 2007	Clearview MONO Whole Blood, K042272/A016
86318QW	July 25, 2007	Polymedco Poly Stat H. Pylori Test (Whole Blood)
86318QW	July 25, 2007	Henry Schein One Step+ H. Pylori Rapid Test Device (Whole Blood)
87880QW	August 14, 2007	Moore Medical The Supply Experts Strep A Rapid Test – Dipstick
87880QW	August 21, 2007	Jant Pharmacal Accustrip Strep A Value+ Test Strip
87880QW	August 21, 2007	Abbott Laboratories Signify Strep A Dipstick
86318QW	September 11, 2007	Abbott Laboratories Signify H. Pylori Cassette {Whole Blood}
82465QW, 83718QW, 82947QW, 82950QW, 82951QW, 82952QW	September 21, 2007	Polymer Technology Systems CardioChek PA Analyzer (PTS Panels CHOL+HDL+GLUC Panel Test Strips)
82465QW, 83718QW, 82947QW, 82950QW, 82951QW, 82952QW	September 21, 2007	Polymer Technology Systems CardioChek Brand Analyzer (PTS Panels CHOL+HDL+GLUC Panel Test Strips)
85014QW	September 21, 2007	Abbott i-STAT Chem8+ Cartridge {Whole Blood}
82465QW, 83718QW	October 15, 2007	Polymer Technology Systems CardioChek PA Analyzer (PTS Panels CHOL+HDL Panel Test Strips)
82465QW, 83718QW	October 15, 2007	Polymer Technology Systems CardioChek Brand Analyzer (PTS Panels CHOL+HDL Panel Test Strips)
82565QW, 84520QW	October 18, 2007	Abaxis Piccolo xpress Chemistry Analyzer (Kidney Check Panel){Whole Blood}

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CPT Code	Effective Date	Description
86703QW	October 22, 2007	Clearview Complete HIV 1/2 {Fingerstick Venipuncture, whole blood}
80051QW	October 30, 2007	Abaxis Piccolo Blood Chemistry Analyzer (Electrolyte Metabolic Reagent Disc){Whole Blood}
80051QW	October 30, 2007	Abaxis Piccolo xpress Chemistry Analyzer (Electrolyte Metabolic Reagent Disc){Whole Blood}
87804QW	November 1, 2007	BinaxNOW Influenza A & B Test {Nasopharyngeal (Np) Swab and Nasal Wash/Aspirate Specimens and Nasal Swabs (NS)}
80101QW	December 13, 2007	Quest Diagnostics Incorporated, Express Results Integrated Multi-Drug Screen Cup {professional use}
80047QW	January 1, 2008	Abbott i-STAT Chem8+ Cartridge {Whole Blood}
80048QW	January 16, 2008	Abaxis Piccolo Blood Chemistry Analyzer (Basic Metabolic Reagent Disc){Whole Blood}
80048QW	January 16, 2008	Abaxis Piccolo xpress Chemistry Analyzer (Basic Metabolic Reagent Disc){Whole Blood}
80053QW	January 16, 2008	Abaxis Piccolo Blood Chemistry Analyzer (Comprehensive Metabolic Reagent Disc){Whole Blood}
80053QW	January 16, 2008	Abaxis Piccolo xpress Chemistry Analyzer (Comprehensive Metabolic Reagent Disc){Whole Blood}

The new waived CPT/HCPCS code, 80047QW, has been assigned for the ionized calcium, carbon dioxide, chloride, creatinine, glucose, potassium, sodium, and urea nitrogen tests performed using the Abbott i-STAT Chem8+ Cartridge {Whole Blood}. This CPT code may be used for claims submitted by facilities with a valid, current CLIA certificate of waiver with dates of service on or after January 1, 2008.

The new waived CPT/HCPCS code, 80048QW, has been assigned for the calcium, carbon dioxide, chloride, creatinine, glucose, potassium, sodium, and urea nitrogen tests performed using the the Abaxis Piccolo Blood Chemistry Analyzer (Basic Metabolic Reagent Disc){Whole Blood} and the Abaxis Piccolo xpress Chemistry Analyzer (Basic Metabolic Reagent Disc){Whole Blood}. This CPT code may be used for claims with dates of service on or after January 16, 2008, submitted by facilities with a valid, current CLIA certificate of waiver.

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The new waived CPT/HCPCS code, 80051QW, has been assigned for the carbon dioxide, chloride, potassium, and sodium tests performed using the Abaxis Piccolo Blood Chemistry Analyzer (Basic Metabolic Reagent Disc){Whole Blood}, the Abaxis Piccolo Blood Chemistry Analyzer (Comprehensive Metabolic Reagent Disc){Whole Blood} and the Abaxis Piccolo Blood Chemistry Analyzer (Electrolyte Metabolic Reagent Disc){Whole Blood}. This CPT code may be used for claims submitted by facilities with a valid, current CLIA certificate of waiver with dates of service on or after October 30, 2007.

The new waived CPT/HCPCS code, 80053QW, has been assigned for the alanine amino transferase, aspartate amino transferase, albumin, total bilirubin, total calcium, carbon dioxide, chloride, creatinine, glucose, alkaline phosphatase, potassium, total protein, sodium, and urea nitrogen tests performed using the Abaxis Piccolo Blood Chemistry Analyzer (Comprehensive Metabolic Reagent Disc){Whole Blood} and the Abaxis Piccolo xpress Chemistry Analyzer (Comprehensive Metabolic Reagent Disc){Whole Blood}. This CPT code may be used for claims with dates of service on or after January 16, 2008, submitted by facilities with a valid, current CLIA certificate of waiver.

The following CPT codes do not require the QW modifier in order to be recognized as waived tests:

CPT Code	Description
81002	Dipstick or tablet reagent urinalysis – non-automated for bilirubin, glucose, hemoglobin, ketone, leukocytes, nitrite, pH, protein, specific gravity, and urobilinogen
81025	Urine pregnancy tests by visual color comparison
82270, 82272, G0394 (Contact your Medicare carrier or A/B MAC for claims instructions.)	Fecal occult blood
82962	Blood glucose by glucose monitoring devices cleared by the FDA for home use
83026	Hemoglobin by copper sulfate – non-automated
84830	Ovulation tests by visual color comparison for human luteinizing hormone

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CPT Code	Description
85013	Blood count; spun microhematocrit
85651	Erythrocyte sedimentation rate – non-automated

Your Medicare Carrier or A/B MAC will not automatically adjust claims processed prior to the implementation of these changes. However, they will adjust such claims that you bring to their attention.

Additional Information

To see the official instruction (CR5913) issued to your Medicare Carrier or A/B MAC visit <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R1477CP.pdf> on the CMS website. A complete list of tests granted waived status under CLIA is attached to CR5913. For more information about CLIA, refer to <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/CLIA/index.html> on the CMS website.

If you have questions, please contact your Medicare Carrier or A/B 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.

News Flash - It's Not Too Late to Give and Get the Flu Shot! In the U.S., the peak of flu season typically occurs anywhere from late December through March; however, flu season can last as late as May. Each office visit presents an opportunity for you to talk with your patients about the importance of getting an annual flu shot and a one time pneumococcal vaccination. Protect yourself, your patients, and your family and friends by getting and giving the flu shot. **Don't Get the Flu. Don't Give the Flu. Get Vaccinated!** Remember - Influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations and their administration are covered Part B benefits. Note that influenza and pneumococcal vaccines are NOT Part D covered drugs. You and your staff can learn more about Medicare's coverage of adult immunizations and related provider education resources, by reviewing Special Edition MLN Matters article SE0748 at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/SE0748.pdf> on the CMS website.

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