

Program Memorandum Intermediaries/Carriers

Department of Health &
Human Services (DHHS)
Centers for Medicare &
Medicaid Services (CMS)

TRANSMITTAL AB-03-127

DATE: AUGUST 22, 2003

CHANGE REQUEST 2843

SUBJECT: Payment for the Fecal Leukocyte Examination Under a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA) Certificate for Provider-Performed Microscopy (PPM) Procedures During CY 2003

I. General Information

A. Background

CLIA requires a facility to be appropriately certified for each test performed. A facility that has a CLIA certificate for PPM procedures may only perform tests that are categorized as either PPM procedures or waived tests under CLIA.

The healthcare common procedure coding system (HCPCS) code G0026 (fecal leukocyte examination) was discontinued on 12/31/2002. The HCPCS code 89055 (fecal leukocyte count) was a possible code to be used for the discontinued G0026. However, under CLIA the fecal leukocyte examination permitted for a PPM procedure certificate does not include a fecal leukocyte count. The HCPCS code 89055 is under revision for calendar year (CY) 2004. This Program Memorandum (PM) gives instructions on how a facility with a CLIA certificate for PPM procedures should submit claims for the fecal leukocyte examination during CY 2003.

B. Policy

The preamble to the CLIA regulations published on April 24, 1995, (HSQ-216-FC), stated that the fecal leukocyte examination is a form of the wet mount examination and mentioned that this test met the criteria for inclusion in PPM procedures category. The existing HCPCS code, Q0111, is currently used by facilities having a valid PPM procedure CLIA certificate to bill for wet mounts, including preparations of vaginal, cervical or skin specimens.

The CLIA regulations also require a facility to be appropriately certified for each test performed. To ensure that Medicare and Medicaid only pay for laboratory tests categorized as provider-performed microscopy (PPM) procedures or waived complexity under CLIA in facilities having a valid CLIA certificate for PPM procedures, laboratory claims are currently edited at the CLIA certificate level.

II. Business Requirements

Req. #	Requirements	Resp.
2843.1	The Medicare contractor shall permit the use of existing HCPCS code Q0111 (Wet mounts, including preparations of vaginal, cervical or skin specimens) for fecal leukocyte examination claims submitted by facilities with a valid PPM procedure CLIA certificate with dates of services on or after January 1, 2003.	All Contractors

2843.2	Contractors need not search their files to either retract payment or retroactively pay claims, however, contractors should adjust claims if they are brought to their attention.	All Contractors
2843.3	Inform your providers of this policy in your next regularly scheduled bulletins, and on your Web site and through your listserv within 2 weeks of the issuance date on this PM.	All Contractors

III. SUPPORTING INFORMATION AND POSSIBLE DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

A. **Other Instructions:** N/A

B. **Design Considerations:** N/A

C. **Interfaces:** N/A

D. **Contractor Financial Reporting /Workload Impact:** N/A

E. **Dependencies:** N/A

F. **Testing Considerations:** N/A

IV. **ATTACHMENT(S):** N/A

<p>Implementation Date: October 1, 2003</p> <p>Discard Date: October 31, 2004</p> <p>Post-Implementation Contact: N/A</p> <p>Effective Date: January 1, 2003</p>	<p>Funding: These instructions should be implemented within your current operating budget.</p> <p>Pre-Implementation Contact: Kathy Todd (410) 786-3385</p>
--	---