

Calendar Year (CY) 2012
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
New and Reconsidered Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule Test Codes
And Final Payment Determinations

Reconsideration Code

G0434

Reconsideration Code Description

Drug screen, other than chromatographic; any number of drug classes, by CLIA waived test or moderate complexity test, per patient encounter

Industry Recommended Crosswalk

4 TIMES G0434; **OR** Leave G0434 the same dollar limit, but create a new test code G043X, paying at 4 TIMES G0434

CMS Final Crosswalk Decision

Retain the same descriptor and payment.

Rationale

There were no additional comments, so we maintain our recommendation of retaining the current code descriptor for G0434. As a result, we believe that the current code descriptor and payment for G0434 is appropriate.

Reconsideration Code

G0435

Reconsideration Code Description

Infectious agent antibody detection by rapid antibody test, HIV-1 and/or HIV-2, screening

Industry Recommended Crosswalk

86703—Antibody; HIV-1 and HIV-2, single assay

CMS Final Crosswalk Decision

Retain the same payment, but explore changing the long descriptor to state “Infectious agent antibody detection by rapid antibody test, HIV-1 and/or HIV-2, oral or fingerstick screening.”

Rationale

We are working through the process to change both the long descriptor and the short descriptor for G0435. We believe that the descriptors should be modified to reflect that this code should be used for both oral fluid and fingerstick blood specimens. Some commenters complained that CMS guidance advises them to bill G0435 if the test is performed on an oral specimen and G0433 if the same test is performed on a fingerstick

blood specimen. Providers want the same reimbursement for both since both specimens are tested in the same manner with the same test kit. The problem was created by the short descriptor for G0435 which differed from the CMS long descriptor. The CMS short descriptor limits this code to an oral fluid specimen. However, the CMS long descriptor does not define the specimen type. Thus, G0435 would be appropriate for either an oral fluid or fingerstick blood specimen. We think it is not appropriate to advise providers to report G0433 for a fingerstick specimen because G0433 was priced to reflect testing on a whole blood specimen obtained from a venipuncture. This latter type of specimen requires additional testing steps including, but not limited to, accessioning, centrifugation and separation of serum, and is performed by an ELISA methodology. Thus, G0433 is priced higher than G0435.

Reconsideration Code

83861

Reconsideration Code Description

Microfluidic analysis utilizing an integrated collection and analysis device; tear osmolarity

Industry Recommended Crosswalk

84081—Phosphatidylglycerol

CMS Final Crosswalk Decision

Change the crosswalk and payment to 84081—Phosphatidylglycerol

Rationale

After reviewing comments, we believe it is reasonable to change the crosswalk from 83909 to 84081. The commenters provided new information not presented at the 2011 Public meeting. In particular, the commenters cite the methodological similarities between 83861, 83909, and 84081. Had the commenters' presentation in 2010 included a crosswalk to 84081, rather than 83909, we believe that we would have found it equally reasonable in 2010. Therefore, we believe that the crosswalk should be changed from 83909 to 84081.

Reconsideration Code

86481

Reconsideration Code Description

Tuberculosis test, cell mediated immunity antigen response measurement; enumeration of gamma interferon-producing T-cells in cell suspension

Industry Recommended Crosswalk

86480—Tuberculosis test, cell mediated immunity antigen response measurement; gamma interferon, **PLUS** 86332—Immune complex assay; **OR** 86480—Tuberculosis

test, cell mediated immunity antigen response measurement; gamma interferon, **PLUS 2 TIMES 83520**—Immunoassay for analyte other than infectious agent antibody or infectious agent antigen; quantitative, not otherwise specified

CMS Final Crosswalk Decision

86480—Tuberculosis test, cell mediated immunity antigen response measurement; gamma interferon, **PLUS 83520**—Immunoassay for analyte other than infectious agent antibody or infectious agent antigen; quantitative, not otherwise specified

Rationale

There were no additional comments, so we maintain our recommendation of crosswalking to 86480 plus 83520.

Reconsideration Code

87906

Reconsideration Code Description

Infectious agent genotype analysis by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); HIV-1, other region

Industry Recommended Crosswalk

87901—Infectious agent genotype analysis by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA); HIV-1, reverse transcriptase and protease regions

CMS Final Crosswalk Decision

Retain the same crosswalk and payment.

Rationale

After further review, we believe that we should retain the current crosswalk to 50% of the NLA amount for 87901 as determined last year. No additional data was presented that would indicate that this pricing level will adversely impact patient care.

New Code

86386

New Code Description

Nuclear Matrix Protein 22 (NMP22), qualitative

Industry Recommended Crosswalk

86294—Immunoassay for tumor antigen, qualitative or semiquantitative (e.g., bladder tumor antigen); **OR 83499**—Hydroxyprogesterone

CMS Final Crosswalk Decision

82487—Chromatography, qualitative; paper, 1-dimensional, analyte not elsewhere specified

Rationale

After receiving further comments, we continue to recommend a crosswalk to test code 82487. Test code 82487 describes a chromatography procedure that does require more labor to perform than new test 86386. However, we believe that there are methodological similarities between these these two types of simple qualitative tests. In fact, we did consider additional crosswalk options involving this type of testing; however, the payment would have been even lower.

New Code

87389

New Code Description

HIV-1 antigen(s), with HIV-1 and HIV-2 antibodies, single result

Industry Recommended Crosswalk

87390—Infectious agent antigen detection by enzyme immunoassay technique, qualitative or semiquantitative, multi-step method; HIV-1, **PLUS** (1/2) TIMES 86703—Antibody; HIV-1 and HIV-2, single assay; **OR** 86703—Antibody; HIV-1 and HIV-2, single assay **OR** (1/2) TIMES 87390—Infectious agent antigen detection by enzyme immunoassay technique, qualitative or semiquantitative, multi-step method; HIV-1, **PLUS** 86703—Antibody; HIV-1 and HIV-2, single assay;

CMS Final Crosswalk Decision

(1/2) TIMES 87390—Infectious agent antigen detection by enzyme immunoassay technique, qualitative or semiquantitative, multi-step method; HIV-1, **PLUS** 86703—Antibody; HIV-1 and HIV-2, single assay

Rationale

After receiving further comments, we agree that 50 percent of the NLA for test code 87390 plus 100 percent of the NLA for test code 86703 appropriately reflects the resources utilized for multiple procedures performed together. Therefore, we believe that combining test code 87390 (50 percent of the NLA) and test code 86703 appropriately represents the fact that new test 87389 is testing for three antibodies/antigens as 87390 represents HIV-1 and 86703 represents HIV-1 antibody and HIV-2 antibody testing.