



Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule & Laboratory Services Subject to Reasonable Charge Payment: Quarterly Update

Related CR Release Date: February 2, 2023

MLN Matters Number: MM13082

Effective Date: April 1, 2023

Related Change Request (CR) Number: [CR 13082](#)

Implementation Date: April 3, 2023

Related CR Transmittal Number: R11829CP

Related CR Title: Quarterly Update for Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule (CLFS) and Laboratory Services Subject to Reasonable Charge Payment

Affected Providers

- Laboratories
- Other providers billing Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for laboratory services they provide to Medicare patients

Action Needed

Make sure your billing staff knows about:

- Next CLFS data reporting period
- General specimen collection fee increase
- New and discontinued HCPCS codes

Background

CR 13082 gives instructions for the quarterly update of the CLFS.

The Next CLFS Data Reporting Period for Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory Tests (CDLTs) is Delayed until January 1 - March 31, 2024

On December 29, 2022, Section 4114 of [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023](#) revised the next data reporting period for CDLTs that aren't Advanced Diagnostic Laboratory Tests (ADLTs) and the phase-in of payment reductions under the Medicare private payor rate-based CLFS. The next data reporting period of January 1 - March 31, 2024, will be based on the original data collection period of January 1 - June 30, 2019. After the next data reporting period, there's a 3-year data reporting cycle for CDLTs that aren't ADLTs (in other words, 2027, 2030, and so on).

Under the [CLFS final rule](#), reporting entities must give CMS certain private payor rate information for their component applicable laboratories. The data collection period was from January 1 - June 30, 2019. The data collection period is where a laboratory gets applicable information from claims for which the laboratory got final payment during the period.

The statutory phase-in of payment reductions resulting from private payor rate implementation is extended through CY 2026. There's a 0.0% reduction for CYs 2021, 2022, and 2023, and payment may not be reduced by more than 15% for CYs 2024-2026.

Policies for Specimen Collection Fees and Travel Allowance for Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory Tests

- **Specimen Collection Policy:** We finalized an increase to the nominal fee for specimen collection based on the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U). For CY 2023, the general specimen collection fee will increase from \$3 to \$8.57. We'll increase this amount by \$2 for those specimens collected from a Medicare patient in a skilled nursing facility (SNF) or by a laboratory on behalf of a home health agency (HHA), which will result in a \$10.57 specimen collection fee for those patients.
- **Travel Allowance Policy:** See the PFS final rule, [CMS-1770-F](#) and MLN Matters Article [MM13071](#) for more information on travel allowance fees for specimen collection.

ADLTs

Visit the [ADLT page](#) for more information about appropriate tests.

New Codes Effective April 1, 2023

Proprietary Laboratory Analysis (PLA)

See the tab "New Codes" of the [table](#) attached to CR 13082. We added the listed new codes to the national HCPCS file with an effective date of April 1, 2023. These new codes are MAC-priced (where applicable) until they're nationally priced. MACs will only price PLA codes for laboratories in their jurisdiction. The table includes the laboratory, long descriptor, short descriptor, and Type of Service (TOS) of each new code.

The following HCPCS codes are discontinued on April 1, 2023, and we'll remove them from the CLFS:

- 0324U (Oncology (ovarian), spheroid cell culture, 4-drug panel (carboplatin, doxorubicin, gemcitabine, paclitaxel), tumor chemotherapy response prediction for each drug)
- 0325U (Oncology (ovarian), spheroid cell culture, poly (ADPribose) polymerase (PARP) inhibitors (niraparib, olaparib, rucaparib, velparib), tumor response prediction for each drug)

More Information

We issued CR 13082 to your MAC as the official instruction for this change.

For more information, [find your MAC's website](#).

Document History

Date of Change	Description
February 2, 2023	Initial article released.

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