

2026 Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule (CLFS) Public Use File (PUF) **Read Me File**

File Contents:

The 2026 CLFS was completed according to the instructions issued in the most recent Change Request (CR) pertaining to the Calendar Year (CY) 2026 Annual Update for Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule and Laboratory Services Subject to Reasonable Charge Payment. The Program Transmittals can be accessed online at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/>.

26CLABQ#.ZIP, a compressed file publically available online at <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/ClinicalLabFeeSched/Clinical-Laboratory-Fee-Schedule-Files.html>, includes the CLFS and supporting documents for Calendar Year (CY) 2026. Upon extraction, four separate files will become available:

- 1) **CLFS 2026 Q#V#.csv**, a comma delimited file containing CLFS data;
- 2) **CLFS 2026 Q#V#.pdf**, a PDF which contains general information about the file's content, background, organization, update schedule, and record layout; and
- 3) **CLFS 2026 Q#V#.txt**, a text file containing CLFS data;
- 4) **CLFS 2026 Q#V#.xls**, an excel file containing CLFS data;

Copyright Notice:

CPT codes, descriptions and other data only are copyright 2026 American Medical Association (AMA). All rights reserved. CPT is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association.

Record Layout:

See Attachments A-1 and A-2.

Record Layout for the 2026 CLFS PUF
CLFS 2026 Q#V#.xls & CLFS 2026 Q#V#.csv

Column	Name	Comment
1	Year	Current calendar year associated with the CLFS.
2	HCPCS Code	All active CPT and alpha-numeric codes subject to the CLFS.
3	Modifier	Where modifier is shown, QW denotes a CLIA waived test.
4	Effective Date	The date for which the Clinical Lab Fee Schedule becomes effective. All codes will have a '20260101' effective date per the first quarter of the new CLFS (unless otherwise specified).
5	Indicator	National or local pricing indicator.
6	Payment Rate	Payment amount associated with each HCPCS code.
7	Short Description	Short description of the applicable HCPCS code.
8	Long Description	Long description of the applicable HCPCS code.
9	Extended Long Description	Extended long description of the applicable HCPCS code.

Record Layout for the 2026 CLFS PUF
CLFS 2026 Q#V#.txt

Field Name	Start/End Position	Picture	Comment
Header Record (Lines 1 – 2)			
Header Indicator	1-3	X(03)	Value 'HDR'
Filler	4-4	X(01)	Value ','
Copyright Statement	5-97	X(93)	
Filler	93-100	X(3)	
Data Record (Lines 3 – END)			
Year	1-4	X(04)	20**'
Filler	5-5	X(01)	Value ','
HCPCS Code	6-10	X(05)	All active CPT and alpha-numeric codes subject to the CLFS.
Filler	11-11	X(01)	Value ','
Modifier	12-13	X(02)	Where modifier is shown, QW denotes a CLIA waived test.
Filler	14-14	X(01)	Value ','
Effective Date	15-22	X(08)	The date for which the Clinical Lab Fee Schedule becomes effective. All codes will have a '20260101' effective date per the first quarter of the new CLFS (unless otherwise specified).
Filler	23-23	X(01)	Value ','
Indicator	24-24	X(01)	National or local pricing indicator.
Filler	25-25	X(01)	Value ','
Payment Rate	26-33	99999.99	Payment amount associated with each HCPCS code.
Filler	34-34	X(01)	Value ','
Short Description	35-74	X(40)	Short description of the applicable HCPCS code.
Filler	75-100	X(04)	