

Internal Medicine Coding Alert

Discover How Waived Status Can Impact the Bottom Line

CLIA certification allows office to bill for several lab services

Without Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA)-waived status, your practice is forbidden from performing many basic lab tests that could net some added reimbursement.

Definition: CLIA-waived means that the internist is certified to conduct simple lab services in-house, says **Sean M. Weiss, CPC, CPC-P, CMPE, CCA-P, CCP-P**, senior partner at The CMC Group LLC in Atlanta. "If a provider's office does not have a CLIA certification or other lab certification, they are not able to provide the [waived] service or bill for it," Weiss says.

Interested? Practices that are interested in applying for a CLIA waiver can download the application form at www.cms.hhs.gov/cmsforms/downloads/cms116.pdf.

Below are some examples of services that internists with CLIA-waived status can provide.

Tests With CLIA-Waived Status

- 81002 -- Urinalysis, by dip stick or tablet reagent for bilirubin, glucose, hemoglobin, ketones, leukocytes, nitrate, pH, protein, specific gravity, urobilinogen, any number of these constituents; non- automated, without microscopy
- 82270 -- Blood, occult, by peroxidase activity (e.g., guaiac), qualitative; feces, consecutive collected specimens with single determination, for colorectal neoplasm screening (i.e., patient was provided three cards or single triple card for consecutive collection)
- 84830 -- Ovulation tests, by visual color comparison methods for human luteinizing hormone
- 81025 -- Urine pregnancy test, by visual color comparison methods
- 85651 -- Sedimentation rate, erythrocyte; non- automated
- 83026 -- Hemoglobin; by copper sulfate method, non-automated
- 82962 -- Glucose, blood by glucose monitoring device(s) cleared by the FDA specifically for home use
- 85013 -- Blood count; spun microhematocrit.