

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

Physician Notes: CMS Assigns 'CLIA-Waived' Status to 5 Additional Lab Tests

Plus: CMS proposes expanding coverage of diagnostic testing using PET scans for cancer patients.

You'll have five lab codes that you'll be able to report as "CLIA-waived," thanks to a Dec. 19 CMS transmittal on the matter.

According to Transmittal 1652, CMS will now consider these five tests CLIA-waived effective last week (Jan. 1). You'll have to append modifier QW (CLIA-waived test) to these codes, which include the following:

- 83036-QW -- DCA Vantage analyzer
- 81003-QW -- OneStepPlus urine analyzer
- 82274-QW/G0328QW -- Fecal occult blood tests
- 80101-QW -- Home check multiple drug cup test
- 83986-QW -- VA-SENSE kit.

To read the full list of CLIA-waived tests, visit the CMS Web site at www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R1652CP.pdf.