

## Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

### Physician Notes: CMS Designates Additional Lab Procedures As 'CLIA-Waived'

**Plus: CMS agrees to cover sleep testing when a physician is initially diagnosing a patient with obstructive sleep apnea.**

Effective April 1, you'll be able to report a slate of additional codes as "CLIA-waived," thanks to Feb. 27 CMS transmittal 1689.

According to the directive, you'll have to append modifier QW (CLIA-waived test) to the newly-approved CLIA-waived codes, which include the following, among others:

- 81003 -- Consult diagnostics urine analyzer
- 87880 -- Henry Schein one step+ strep A dipstick test
- 83036 -- Siemens DCA 2000 and 2000+ analyzer
- 82947 and 82950-82952 -- Abbott iSTAT G Cartridge (Whole blood)
- 84295, 84132, and 85014 --Abbott i-STAT E3+ Cartridge (Whole blood)
- 83986 -- Common sense Ltd. Norma-Sense vaginal discharge pH test
- 80101 -- Mossman Associates NicCheck I Test Strips

To read CMS' transmittal 1689, visit [www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R1689CP.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R1689CP.pdf). To read the MLN Matters article, visit [www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6370.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6370.pdf).