

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

Physician Notes: Look for New CLIA-Waived Tests Effective July 1

Plus: OIG zeroes in on inappropriate Neulasta payments.

You'll have 12 new tests that you'll be able to report as "CLIA-waived," thanks to a May 28 CMS transmittal on the matter. According to MLN Matters article MM6906, CMS will now consider these tests CLIA-waived effective July 1. You'll have to append modifier QW (CLIA-waived test) to these codes, which include the following, among others:

Phamatech QuickScreen One Step THC Screening Test -- G0431

Acceava Mono Cassette (for whole blood) -- 86308

Care Diagnostics Clarity IFOB test -- 82274 and G0328

The article indicates that "effective July 1, 2010, CPT code 80101 (Drug screen, qualitative; single drug class method [eg, immunoassay, enzyme assay], each drug class) will no longer be covered by Medicare, and 80101QW was deleted on April 1, 2010."

It also states that "the test code G0431 (Drug screen, qualitative; single drug class method [e.g., immunoassay, enzyme assay], each drug class) is a direct replacement for CPT code 80101." To read the complete list of new CLIA-waived tests, visit www.cms.gov/MLN MattersArticles/downloads/MM6906.pdf.