

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Giese</i>	DATE <i>4-6-12</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;"><i>101391</i></div>	<input type="checkbox"/> I Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <div style="text-align: center;"> <i>cc: Singleton</i> </div>	<input type="checkbox"/> I Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I FOIA DATE DUE _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action

APPROVALS (Only when prepared for director's signature)	APPROVE	* DISAPPROVE (Note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)	COMMENT
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

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APR 05 2012



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Office of General Counsel

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Deirdra Singleton
Chief of Staff
Department of Health and Human Services
1801 Main Street
Columbia, SC 29202

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Re: South Carolina Physicians Provider Manual 1/1/12; Section 2 Policies and Procedures, 2-85

April 4, 2012

We would like to thank you for your time and assistance regarding the CPT coding and claim submission for toxicology testing.

Effective January 1, 2011, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services ("CMS") began utilizing two test codes to report drug screen testing. HCPCS code G0434 was added and HCPCS code G0431 was redefined. Prior to the description change to G0431, it was the appropriate code for submission of drug screen testing performed in a moderate complexity laboratory. Specific coding updates are described below:

MLN Matters® Number: SE1105

This article describes how clinical diagnostic laboratories should bill for certain types of tests that are covered under Medicare and paid based on the Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule (CLFS). Specifically, the article addresses the billing of two CLFS Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) test codes - G0431 (Drug screen, qualitative; multiple drug classes by high complexity test method (e.g., immunoassay, enzyme assay), per patient encounter) and G0434 (Drug screen, other than chromatographic; any number of drug classes, by CLIA waived test or moderate complexity test, per patient encounter) - beginning January 1, 2011. HCPCS code G0434 is new for Calendar Year (CY) 2011.

G0434 (Drug screen, other than chromatographic; any number of drug classes, by CLIA waived test or **moderate complexity test**, per patient encounter) will be used to report very simple testing methods, such as dipsticks, cups, cassettes, and cards, that are interpreted visually, with the assistance of a scanner, or are read utilizing a moderately complex reader device outside the instrumented laboratory setting (i.e., non-instrumented devices) (emphasis added).

G0431 (Drug screen, qualitative; multiple drug classes by **high complexity test method** (e.g., immunoassay, enzyme assay), per patient encounter) will be used to report more complex testing methods, such as multi-channel chemistry analyzers, where a more complex instrumented device is required to perform some or all of the screening tests for the patient. Note that the descriptor has been revised for CY 2011 (emphasis added).

For those payors who have adopted these 2011 coding updates, G0431 is not the most descriptive code for moderate complexity testing as G0431 now represents the high complexity test method based on the change in definition by CMS as noted above. We ask that G0434 be added to the South Carolina fee schedule for moderate complexity testing and G0431 remain as the appropriate code for high complexity testing.

Please feel free to contact Peter Frank at 516-228-6281 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Brenda

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