



## Medicare, Metro Lab and You: How CERT Audits Can Affect Your Bottom Line

**A reprint from the CMS.GOV website:** The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) calculates the Medicare Fee-for-Service (FFS) improper payment rate through the Comprehensive Error Rate Testing (CERT) program. Each year, CERT evaluates a statistically valid stratified random sample of claims to determine if they were paid properly under Medicare coverage, coding, and billing rules.

**For Metro Lab, the key point is that the physician must clearly document in the medical record his or her intent that a test be performed.** During a CERT audit, we are asked to provide medical documentation, so we request and obtain your clinical notes for this purpose. If the notes are incomplete, unsigned, or don't include a diagnosis, CMS is quick to ask for a refund of payment. Should the ability to appeal be taken away due to timely filing guidelines, we have no alternative but to charge your office for the work performed.

### Diagnosis Review:

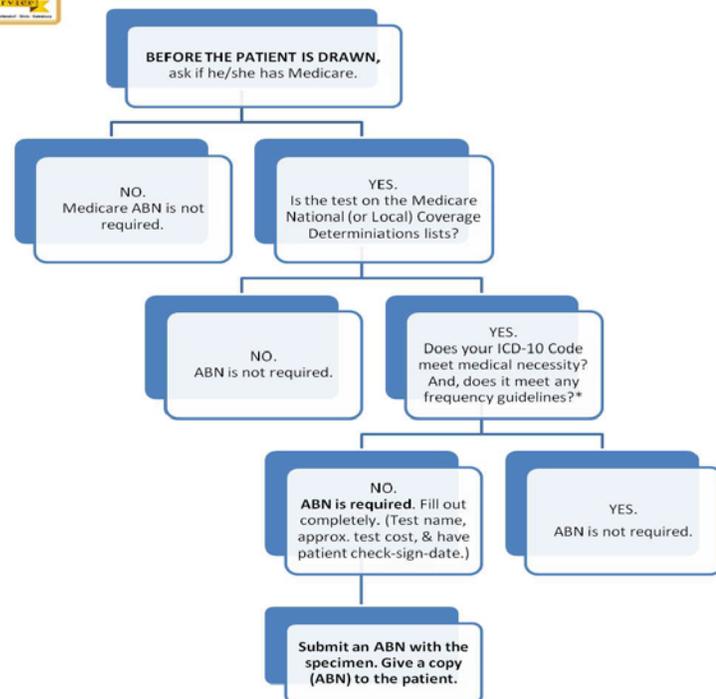
Our primary goal is two-fold: to help your office stay **CERT** ready, and have the ability to provide corrected diagnosis codes from the patient's chart - based upon the **CERT** guidelines. Your office will receive, by fax, a **Diagnosis Review Request Form**. We are still seeing some common coding errors that CMS and private insurance is denying due to medical-necessity guidelines and/or frequency limitations. Some private insurances, (i.e. UHC) have implemented another layer of medical-necessity guidelines making the coding process more of a challenge.

**Neither Metro Lab nor our billing company approve or deny the diagnosis codes given for a requested test. We submit the claim, as it is given on the order, and either CMS or private insurance determines if the code is medically necessary.**

To help your office navigate the coding process, please find an updated **ICD-10 Tool Box** on the right-hand side of our website at MetroMedLab.com.



### Medicare Advanced Beneficiary Notice (ABN) Workflow Required for Laboratory Test NCDs and LCDs



Source: [www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coverage/CoverageGenInfo](http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coverage/CoverageGenInfo)

\*Tests with frequency guidelines include Lipid, Thyroid, A1c, PSA, Occult Blood, and Vitamin D.

Questions? See our Website **ICD-10 Tool Box** at [www.MetroMedLab.com](http://www.MetroMedLab.com) or call (309)-762-8555 ext. 3622 to speak to Gary.

Need ABNs? Order supplies online @ [www.metromedlab.com](http://www.metromedlab.com), or call (309) 762-8555 ext. 3420.

## ORGANISM NAME CHANGES

Please be aware that several organisms have had nomenclature changes this year. Our Microbiology Department has implemented the following changes:

- *Propionibacterium acnes* → *Cutibacterium acnes*
- *Clostridium difficile* → *Clostridioides difficile*
- *Enterobacter aerogenes* → *Klebsiella aerogenes*
- *Fusobacterium nucleatum* → *Fusobacterium species*

The former genus will continue to be included in the test report in order to assist our clients through this transition.

## CYCLOSPORA TESTING

There is a multi-state outbreak of *Cyclospora* infections associated with consumption of salads from a fast food chain in Iowa and Illinois. Health Care Providers should consider *Cyclospora* infection in patients with watery diarrhea, loss of appetite, weight loss, stomach cramps, bloating, nausea and fatigue. Symptoms can be transient for weeks to months without treatment. For *Cyclospora* analysis order specific testing: **Modified Acid-Fast Stain for Coccidia (Unit code 106520)** which looks for *Cyclospora* as well as *Cryptosporidium* and *Cystoisospora*.

## TESTING UPDATES

Hepatitis C RNA Quantitative by Transcription-Mediated Amplification (HCV RNA QNT or HCV Quant) **Test Code # 32085** is now available for in-house testing. Collect one SST Gold Serum Separator tube. Also acceptable, Serum Plain Red, EDTA (purple) or ACD (yellow) tubes. Storage and transport refrigerated.

Hepatitis C RNA Quantitative by Transcription-Mediated Amplification (HCV RNA QNT w/ Reflex or HCV Quant w/ Reflex) **Test Code # 32090** is now available for testing. Collect one SST Gold Serum Separator tube. Also acceptable, Serum Plain Red, EDTA (purple) or ACD (yellow) tubes. Storage and transport refrigerated.

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Viral Load **Test Code # 20085** (replacing test # 305685) will be performed in-house starting July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Use an EDTA tube if collecting in your office. The specimen must be centrifuged within 24 hours and the plasma transferred to a takeoff tube. Transport refrigerated.

New testing began on July 2, 2018 for **Mycoplasma pneumoniae DNA, Test Code 106460**. Be sure to use our new **BBL Culture Swab, S-4** on your Supply Fax Order Form, if collecting in your office or write/select the Mycoplasma DNA for the patient script from your EMR. Include the test code to ensure proper testing.

Please be sure to build these new tests in your EMR for proper ordering. Contact your vendor and/or Metro Lab's I.T. Department at 309-762-8555 ext. 4198 for questions about your orders or results interface.

**As always, we appreciate your business and continued support.**

Metropolitan Medical Laboratory, PLC

Quad Cities Pathologists, LLC

**Your Health – Your Lab – Your Choice**



[www.MetroMedLab.com](http://www.MetroMedLab.com)

