

Affected Programs: BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid
To: All Providers, HMOs and Other Managed Care Organizations

Reminder: Reimbursement for Laboratory Procedures Requires Valid CLIA Certification

Providers are reminded that they are required to have a valid Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) certificate on file with ForwardHealth in order to receive reimbursement for CLIA-monitored laboratory procedures. Effective for claims processed on and after October 1, 2011, ForwardHealth will deny a claim for CLIA-monitored laboratory procedures if the billing provider did not have a CLIA certificate on file, or did not have the appropriate level of certification on file, for the date of service.

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If a claim is denied because of missing or invalid CLIA certification, the remittance information will show one of the following as the reason for the denial:

- *Explanation of benefits (EOB) code 0794* (Procedure not allowed for the CLIA certification type).
- *Reason code A1* (Claim/Service denied) in combination with *Remark code M51* (Missing/incomplete/invalid procedure code[s]).

The CLIA certification requirement applies to all applicable claim types submitted to ForwardHealth for services provided under Wisconsin Medicaid or BadgerCare Plus.

CLIA Regulations

CLIA requires *all* laboratories and providers that perform tests (including waived tests) for health assessment or for the diagnosis, prevention, or treatment of disease or health impairment to comply with specific federal quality standards. This requirement applies even if only a single test is being performed.

A provider who performs tests for the above stated purposes is considered a laboratory under CLIA and must obtain a CLIA certificate from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) indicating that the laboratory is qualified to perform a category of tests. The type of certificate CMS issues is determined by both the complexity of tests performed and the qualifications of staff performing the tests.

CLIA Certification Types

There are five types of CLIA certificates as defined by CMS:

1. *Certificate of Waiver*. This certificate is issued to a laboratory to perform only waived tests.
2. *Certificate for Provider-Performed Microscopy Procedures (PPMP)*. This certificate is issued to a laboratory in which a physician, mid-level practitioner, or dentist performs no tests other than the microscopy

procedures. This certificate permits the laboratory to also perform waived tests.

3. *Certificate of Registration.* This certificate is issued to a laboratory and enables the entity to conduct moderate- or high-complexity laboratory testing, or both, until the entity is determined by survey to be in compliance with the CLIA regulations.
4. *Certificate of Compliance.* This certificate is issued to a laboratory after an inspection that finds the laboratory to be in compliance with all applicable CLIA requirements.
5. *Certificate of Accreditation.* This is a certificate that is issued to a laboratory on the basis of the laboratory's accreditation by an accreditation organization approved by CMS.

For additional information on these certificate types or CLIA certification, providers can refer to the Laboratory/Pathology service area of the Online Handbook on the ForwardHealth Portal at www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/. Once in the Online Handbook, go to CLIA Certification or Waiver (Topic #899) in the Certification chapter of the Certification and Ongoing Responsibilities section.

Verifying CLIA Certification on File with ForwardHealth

Providers who are not sure whether the CLIA certification information they have on file with ForwardHealth is current may call Provider Services at (800) 947-9627 to verify their certification information.

Updating Certification Information

If a provider's CLIA certification information is not current, the provider should send a copy of any missing certificates to Provider Maintenance at the following address:

ForwardHealth
Provider Maintenance
6406 Bridge Rd
Madison WI 53784-0006

When a provider sends ForwardHealth a copy of a missing CLIA certificate, the effective date on the certificate will become the effective date for the CLIA certification on file with ForwardHealth.

Information Regarding Managed Care Organizations

This *Update* contains fee-for-service policy and applies to services members receive on a fee-for-service basis only. For managed care policy, contact the appropriate managed care organization. Managed care organizations are required to provide at least the same benefits as those provided under fee-for-service arrangements.

The *ForwardHealth Update* is the first source of program policy and billing information for providers.

Wisconsin Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, SeniorCare, and Wisconsin Chronic Disease Program are administered by the Division of Health Care Access and Accountability, Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). The Wisconsin Well Woman Program is administered by the Division of Public Health, Wisconsin DHS.

For questions, call Provider Services at (800) 947-9627 or visit our Web site at www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/.

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