



Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule: 2024 Annual Update

Related CR Release Date: November 30, 2023 MLN Matters Number: MM13467

Effective Date: January 1, 2024

Related Change Request (CR) Number: [CR 13467](#)

Implementation Date: January 2, 2024

Related CR Transmittal Number: R12389CP

Related CR Title: Calendar Year (CY) 2024 Annual Update for Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule and Laboratory Services Subject to Reasonable Charge Payment

Affected Providers

- Laboratories
- Other providers billing Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for laboratory services they provide to Medicare patients

Action Needed

Make sure your billing staff knows about changes and instructions effective January 1, 2024:

- Delay in Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule (CLFS) data reporting period and the phase-in of payment reductions
- Mapping for new test codes
- Updates for costs subject to the reasonable charge payment

Background

Next CLFS Data Reporting Period for Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory Tests (CDLTs)-- DELAYED

Under the [CLFS final rule](#), reporting entities must give CMS certain private payor rate information for their component applicable laboratories. On December 10, 2021, the [Protecting Medicare and American Farmers from Sequester Cuts Act](#) (S. 610) delayed the reporting requirement and also delayed the application of the 15% phase-in reduction.

On November 16, 2023, Section 502 of the [Further Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act of 2024](#) was passed and delayed data reporting requirements for CDLTs that aren't advanced diagnostic laboratory tests (ADLTs), and it also delayed the phase-in of payment reductions under the CLFS from private payor rate implementation.

- The next data reporting period of January 1, 2025–March 31, 2025, is based on the original data collection period of January 1, 2019–June 30, 2019. After the next data reporting period, there's a 3-year data reporting cycle for CDLTs that aren't ADLTs (example: 2028, 2031).
- A 0% payment reduction will be applied for CY 2024 so that a CDLT that isn't an ADLT may not be reduced compared to the payment amount for that test in CY 2023. For CYs 2025-2027, payment may not be reduced by more than 15% per year compared to the payment amount established for a test the preceding year.

ADLTs

See the [CMS ADLT](#) website for more information about these tests.

Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule Update to Fees

- For a pap smear test, Section 1833(h)(7) of the [Social Security Act](#) (the Act) requires payment to be the lesser of the local fee or the national limitation amount, but not less than a national minimum payment amount. Payment for pap smear tests may not exceed the actual charge. The CY 2024 national minimum payment amount is \$17.76. This value is the CY 2023 national minimum payment with a 2.6% increase or \$17.31 times 1.026.
- The affected codes for the national minimum payment amount are: 88142, 88143, 88147, 88148, 88150, 88152, 88153, 88164, 88165, 88166, 88167, 88174, 88175, G0123, G0143, G0144, G0145, G0147, G0148, Q0111, Q0115, and P3000.

The annual update to payments made on a reasonable charge basis for all other laboratory services is the Consumer Price Index-Update (CPI-U), which for CY 2024 is 3.0%, per [42 CFR 405.509\(b\)\(1\)](#).

The Part B deductible and coinsurance don't apply for services paid under the CLFS.

Access to Data File

The [CY 2024 CLFS](#) data file will be available after December 1, 2023. It will be available in multiple formats including Excel®, text, and comma delimited.

Public Comments and Final Payment Determinations

On June 22, 2023, CMS hosted a public meeting to solicit comments on the reconsidered codes from CY 2023 codes and new CY 2024 CPT codes. A [summary](#) of the meeting and the tentative payment determinations is available.

Pricing Information

The CY 2024 CLFS includes separately payable fees for certain specimen collection methods (codes 36415, P9612, P9615, and G0471). We establish the fees based on Section 1833(h)(4)(B) of the Act.

We update the fees for clinical laboratory travel codes P9603 and P9604 annually. The clinical laboratory travel codes are billable only for traveling to perform a specimen collection for either a nursing home or homebound patient. If there's a revision to the standard mileage rate for CY 2024, we'll issue a separate instruction on the clinical laboratory travel fees.

The CY 2024 clinical laboratory fee schedule may also include codes that have a "QW" modifier to both identify codes and determine payment for tests performed by a laboratory having only a CLIA certificate of waiver.

Mapping Information

Tab A of the [table](#) attached to CR 13467 lists the mapping information for codes.

Laboratory Costs Subject to Reasonable Charge Payment in CY 2024

We pay hospital outpatient claims on a reasonable charge basis per Section 1842(b)(3) of [the Act](#). The reasonable charge can't exceed the lowest of the actual charge or the customary or prevailing charge for the previous 12-month period ending June 30, updated by the inflation indexed update. The CPI-U for CY 2024 is 3.0%.

Services described by HCPCS codes in the following lists are for independent dialysis facility patients. However, when you perform these services for hospital-based renal dialysis facility patients, we pay on a reasonable cost basis. Also, when these you perform these services for hospital outpatients, we make payment under the hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS).

Blood Products, Transfusion Medicine, and Reproductive Medicine Procedures

Tab B of the [table](#) attached to CR 13467 lists the codes in these categories subject reasonable charge payment in CY 2024.

New Codes - Proprietary Laboratory Analysis (PLAs)

Tab C of the [table](#) attached to CR 13467 lists the new codes effective January 1, 2024.

We added these new codes to the national HCPCS file with an effective date of January 1, 2024. These new codes are MAC-priced (where applicable) until they're nationally priced. MACs will only price PLA codes for laboratories within their jurisdiction.

Deleted Codes

Tab D of the [table](#) attached to CR 13467 lists the codes deleted effective January 1, 2024.

More Information

We issued CR 13467 to your MAC as the official instruction for this change.

For more information, [find your MAC's website](#).

Document History

Date of Change	Description
November 30, 2023	Initial article released.

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