



MEMORANDUM #76

TO: McLendon Labs Outreach Clients

FROM: *not* Tom Snyder, Compliance Officer, McLendon Clinical Laboratory
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DATE: February 11, 2014

SUBJECT: Lipid Panel Compliance Rules set by CMS Medicare

We are requesting your help in complying with CMS Medicare rules regarding lipid testing.

Medicare Part B covers cardiovascular disease screening every 5 years for beneficiaries who do not have concurrent signs or symptoms of cardiovascular disease. The tests approved for this screening are:

FASTING PATIENTS

-Total Cholesterol
-High Density Lipoprotein (HDL)
-Triglycerides

NON-FASTING PATIENTS

-Total Cholesterol
-High Density Lipoprotein (HDL)

These tests are the only screening blood tests Medicare covers as part of this preventive service. The tests may be ordered individually or together as a Lipid Panel (Fasting) or Lipid Panel (Non-Fasting). Please note that CMS requires the laboratory to bill for a **Lipid Panel (CPT 80061)** if all the individual components of the Lipid Panel are ordered. Also, the 5-year testing interval specifically applies to those tests ordered with a **screening ICD-9 code (V codes)**. Diagnostic Lipid Panels can be ordered more frequently with appropriate ICD-9 coding to support the order.

LDL Cholesterol Testing:

Fasting - When a Lipid Panel is performed on a fasting sample AND the triglyceride is less than 400 mg/dL, a calculation for Low Density Lipoprotein Cholesterol (LDL) is performed as part of the panel. When the triglyceride is greater than 400 mg/dL, the test will automatically reflex to a measured Direct LDL.

Non-Fasting – A Direct LDL can be ordered on non-fasting specimens. Triglyceride testing on non-fasting patients is not recommended as the patient's triglyceride level will be inaccurately represented.

IMPORTANT: Please note that CMS will not reimburse Direct LDL testing that is ordered on fasting patients unless the Triglyceride is >400 mg/dL. Post EPIC, patients will start receiving bills for non-covered services. This can be avoided if the guidelines above are followed.