

—The procedures used to notify accredited MA organizations of deficiencies and to monitor the correction of those deficiencies; and

—The procedures used to enforce compliance with accreditation requirements.

- Detailed information about the individuals who perform surveys for the accreditation organization, including—

- ++ The size and composition of accreditation survey teams for each type of plan reviewed as part of the accreditation process;
- ++ The education and experience requirements surveyors must meet;
- ++ The content and frequency of the in-service training provided to survey personnel;

- ++ The evaluation systems used to monitor the performance of individual surveyors and survey teams; and

- ++ The organization's policies and practice with respect to the participation, in surveys or in the accreditation decision process by an individual who is professionally or financially affiliated with the entity being surveyed.

- A description of the organization's data management and analysis system with respect to its surveys and accreditation decisions, including the kinds of reports, tables, and other displays generated by that system.

- A description of the organization's procedures for responding to and investigating complaints against accredited organizations, including policies and procedures regarding coordination of these activities with appropriate licensing bodies and ombudsmen programs.

- A description of the organization's policies and procedures with respect to the withholding or removal of accreditation for failure to meet the accreditation organization's standards or requirements, and other actions the organization takes in response to noncompliance with its standards and requirements.

- A description of all types (for example, full, partial) and categories (for example, provisional, conditional, temporary) of accreditation offered by the organization, the duration of each type and category of accreditation and a statement identifying the types and categories that would serve as a basis for accreditation if CMS approves the accreditation organization.

- A list of all currently accredited MA organizations and the type, category, and expiration date of the accreditation held by each of them.

- A list of all full and partial accreditation surveys scheduled to be

performed by the accreditation organization.

- The name and address of each person with an ownership or control interest in the accreditation organization.

- CMS will also consider NCQA's past performance in the deeming program and results of recent deeming validation reviews, or look-behind audits conducted as part of continuing federal oversight of the deeming program under § 422.157(d).

B. Notice Upon Completion of Evaluation

Upon completion of our evaluation, including evaluation of comments received as a result of this notice, we will publish a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing the result of our evaluation.

Section 1852(e)(4)(C) of the Act provides a statutory timetable to ensure that our review of deeming applications is conducted in a timely manner. The Act provides us with 210 calendar days after the date of receipt of an application to complete our survey activities and application review process. At the end of the 210 day period, we must publish an approval or denial of the application in the **Federal Register**.

III. Collection of Information Requirements

This document does not impose information collection and recordkeeping requirements. Consequently, it need not be reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget under the authority of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

IV. Response to Comments

Because of the large number of public comments we normally receive on **Federal Register** documents, we are not able to acknowledge or respond to them individually. We will consider all comments we receive by the date and time specified in the **DATES** section of this preamble, and, when we proceed with a subsequent document, we will respond to the comments in the preamble to that document.

Dated: March 14, 2014.

Marilyn Tavenner,

Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS-1610-N]

Medicare Program; Public Meeting on July 14, 2014 Regarding New Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory Test Codes for the Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule for Calendar Year 2015

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a public meeting to receive comments and recommendations (including accompanying data on which recommendations are based) from the public on the appropriate basis for establishing payment amounts for new or substantially revised Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes being considered for Medicare payment under the clinical laboratory fee schedule (CLFS) for calendar year (CY) 2015. This meeting also provides a forum for those who submitted certain reconsideration requests regarding final determinations made last year on new test codes and for the public to provide comment on the requests.

DATES: *Meeting Date:* The public meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 14, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Eastern Daylight Savings Time.

Deadline for Registration of Presenters and Submission of Presentations: All presenters for the public meeting must register and submit their presentations electronically to Glenn McGuirk at Glenn.McGuirk@cms.hhs.gov by July 3, 2014.

Deadline for Submitting Requests for Special Accommodations: Requests for special accommodations must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on July 3, 2014.

Deadline for Submission of Written Comments: We intend to publish our proposed determinations for new test codes and our preliminary determinations for reconsidered codes (as described below) for CY 2015 by early September. Interested parties may submit written comments on these determinations by early October, 2014 to the address specified in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice or electronically to Glenn McGuirk at Glenn.McGuirk@cms.hhs.gov (the specific date for the publication of these determinations on the CMS Web site, as well as the deadline for submitting comments regarding these

determinations will be published on the CMS Web site).

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held in the main auditorium of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Central Building, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21244–1850.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Glenn McGuirk, (410) 786–5723.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Section 531(b) of the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Benefits Improvement and Protection Act of 2000 (BIPA) (Pub. L. 106–554) requires the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (the Secretary) to establish procedures for coding and payment determinations for new clinical diagnostic laboratory tests under Part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act (the Act) that permit public consultation in a manner consistent with the procedures established for implementing coding modifications for International Classification of Diseases (ICD–9–CM). The procedures and public meeting announced in this notice for new tests are in accordance with the procedures published on November 23, 2001 in the **Federal Register** (66 FR 58743) to implement section 531(b) of BIPA.

Section 942(b) of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA) (Pub. L. 108–173) added section 1833(h)(8) of the Act. Section 1833(h)(8)(A) of the Act requires the Secretary to establish by regulation procedures for determining the basis for, and amount of, payment for any clinical diagnostic laboratory test with respect to which a new or substantially revised Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code is assigned on or after January 1, 2005 (hereinafter referred to as “new tests”). A code is considered to be substantially revised if “there is a substantive change to the definition of the test or procedure to which the code applies (such as, a new analyte or a new methodology for measuring an existing analyte-specific test).” (See section 1833(h)(8)(E)(ii) of the Act).

Section 1833(h)(8)(B) of the Act sets forth the process for determining the basis for, and the amount of, payment for new tests. Pertinent to this notice, section 1833(h)(8)(B)(i) and (ii) of the Act requires the Secretary to make available to the public a list that includes any such test for which establishment of a payment amount is being considered for a year and, on the same day that the list is made available,

cause to have published in the **Federal Register** notice of a meeting to receive comments and recommendations (including accompanying data, which recommendations are based) from the public on the appropriate basis for establishing payment amounts for the tests on such list. This list of codes for which the establishment of a payment amount under the clinical laboratory fee schedule (CLFS) is being considered for calendar year (CY) 2015 is posted on the CMS Web site at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/ClinicalLabFeeSched/index.html?redirect=/ClinicalLabFeeSched/>. Section 1833(h)(8)(B)(iii) of the Act requires that we convene the public meeting not less than 30 days after publication of the notice in the **Federal Register**. These requirements are codified at 42 CFR part 414, subpart G.

Two bases of payment are used to establish payment amounts for new tests. The first basis called “crosswalking,” is used when a new test is determined to be comparable to an existing test code, multiple existing test codes, or a portion of an existing test code. The new test code is assigned the local fee schedule amounts and the national limitation amount of the existing test. Payment for the new test is made at the lesser of the local fee schedule amount or the national limitation amount. (See 42 CFR 414.508(a).)

The second basis called “gapfilling,” is used when no comparable existing test is available. When using this method, instructions are provided to each Medicare carrier or Part A and Part B Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) to determine a payment amount for its carrier geographic areas) for use in the first year. The contractor-specific amounts are established for the new test code using the following sources of information, if available: Charges for the test and routine discounts to charges; resources required to perform the test; payment amounts determined by other payers; and charges, payment amounts, and resources required for other tests that may be comparable or otherwise relevant. (See 42 CFR 414.508(b) and 414.509 for more information regarding the gapfilling process.)

Under section 1833(h)(8)(B)(iv) of the Act, the Secretary, taking into account the comments and recommendations (and accompanying data) received at the public meeting, develops and makes available to the public a list of proposed determinations with respect to the appropriate basis for establishing a payment amount for each code, an explanation of the reasons for each

determination, the data which the determinations are based, and a request for public written comments on the proposed determinations. Under section 1833(h)(8)(B)(v) of the Act, taking into account the comments received during the public comment period, the Secretary develops and makes available to the public a list of final determinations of final payment amounts for new test codes along with the rationale for each determination, the data which the determinations are based, and responses to comments and suggestions received from the public.

After the final determinations have been posted on our Web site, the public may request reconsideration of the basis and amount of payment for a new test as set forth in § 414.509. Pertinent to this notice, those requesting that CMS reconsider the basis for payment or, for crosswalking, reconsider the payment amount as set forth in § 414.509(a) and (b)(1) may present their reconsideration requests at the following year’s public meeting provided that the requestor made the request to present at the public meeting in the written reconsideration request. For purposes of this notice, we refer to these codes as the “reconsidered codes.” The public may comment on the reconsideration requests. (See the November 27, 2007 CY 2008 Physician Fee Schedule final rule with comment period (72 FR 66275 through 66280) for more information on these procedures.)

II. Format

We are following our usual process, including an annual public meeting to determine the appropriate basis and payment amount for new test codes under the CLFS for CY 2015.

This meeting is open to the public. The on-site check-in for visitors will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., followed by opening remarks. Registered persons from the public may discuss and make recommendations for specific new test codes for the CY 2015 CLFS.

Because of time constraints, presentations must be brief, lasting no longer than 10 minutes, and must be accompanied by three written copies. In addition, CMS recommends that presenters make copies available for approximately 50 meeting participants, since CMS will not be providing additional copies. Written presentations must be electronically submitted to CMS on or before July 3, 2014. Presentation slots will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. In the event that there is not enough time for presentations by everyone who is interested in presenting, CMS will

gladly accept written presentations from those who were unable to present due to time constraints. Presentations should be sent via email to Glenn McGuirk, at Glenn.McGuirk@cms.hhs.gov. For new test codes, presenters should address all of the following items:

- New test code(s) and descriptor.
- Test purpose and method.
- Costs.
- Charges.
- A recommendation, with rationale, for one of the two bases (crosswalking or gapfilling) for determining payment for new tests.

Additionally, the presenters should provide the data which their recommendations are based. Written presentations from the public meeting will be available upon request, via email, to Glenn McGuirk at Glenn.McGuirk@cms.hhs.gov. Presentations regarding new test codes that do not address the above five items may be considered incomplete and may not be considered by CMS when making a determination. CMS may request missing information following the meeting to prevent a recommendation from being considered incomplete.

Taking into account the comments and recommendations (and accompanying data) received at the public meeting, we intend to post our proposed determinations with respect to the appropriate basis for establishing a payment amount for each new test code and our preliminary determinations with respect to the reconsidered codes along with an explanation of the reasons for each determination, the data which the determinations are based, and a request for public written comments on these determinations on the CMS Web site by early September 2014. This Web site can be accessed at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/ClinicalLabFeeSched/index.html?redirect=/ClinicalLabFeeSched/>. We also will include a summary of all comments received by August 4, 2014 (15 business days after the meeting). Interested parties may submit written comments on the proposed determinations for new test codes or the preliminary determinations for reconsidered codes by early October, 2014, to the address specified in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice or electronically to Glenn McGuirk at Glenn.McGuirk@cms.hhs.gov (the specific date for the publication of the determinations on the CMS Web site, as well as the deadline for submitting comments regarding the determinations will be published on the CMS Web site). Final determinations for

new test codes to be included for payment on the CLFS for CY 2015 and reconsidered codes will be posted on our Web site in November 2014, along with the rationale for each determination, the data which the determinations are based, and responses to comments and suggestions received from the public. The final determinations with respect to reconsidered codes are not subject to further reconsideration. With respect to the final determinations for new test codes, the public may request reconsideration of the basis and amount of payment as set forth in § 414.509.

III. Registration Instructions

The Division of Ambulatory Services in the CMS Center for Medicare is coordinating the public meeting registration. Beginning June 9, 2014, registration may be completed on-line at the following web address: <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/ClinicalLabFeeSched/index.html?redirect=/ClinicalLabFeeSched/>. All the following information must be submitted when registering:

- Name.
- Company name.
- Address.
- Telephone numbers.
- Email addresses.

When registering, individuals who want to make a presentation must also specify which new test codes they will be presenting comments. A confirmation will be sent upon receipt of the registration. Individuals must register by the date specified in the **DATES** section of this notice.

IV. Security, Building, and Parking Guidelines

The meeting will be held in a Federal government building; therefore, Federal security measures are applicable. In planning your arrival time, we recommend allowing additional time to clear security. It is suggested that you arrive at the CMS facility between 8:15 a.m. and 8:30 a.m., so that you will be able to arrive promptly at the meeting by 9:00 a.m. Individuals who are not registered in advance will not be permitted to enter the building and will be unable to attend the meeting. The public may not enter the building earlier than 8:15 a.m. (45 minutes before the convening of the meeting).

Security measures include the following:

- Presentation of government-issued photographic identification to the Federal Protective Service or Guard Service personnel. Persons without

proper identification may be denied access to the building.

- Interior and exterior inspection of vehicles (this includes engine and trunk inspection) at the entrance to the grounds. Parking permits and instructions will be issued after the vehicle inspection.

- Passing through a metal detector and inspection of items brought into the building.

We note that all items brought to CMS, whether personal or for the purpose of demonstration or to support a demonstration, are subject to inspection. We cannot assume responsibility for coordinating the receipt, transfer, transport, storage, set-up, safety, or timely arrival of any personal belongings or items used for demonstration or to support a demonstration.

V. Special Accommodations

Individuals attending the meeting who are hearing or visually impaired and have special requirements, or a condition that requires special assistance, should provide that information upon registering for the meeting. The deadline for registration is listed in the **DATES** section of this notice.

Dated: March 14, 2014.

Marilyn Tavenner,
Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS-3292-N]

Medicare Program; Announcement of the Approval of the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) as an Accreditation Organization Under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the application of the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) for approval as an accreditation organization for clinical laboratories under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA) program for all specialty and subspecialty areas under CLIA. We have determined that the A2LA meets or