



Related MLN Matters Article #: MM3458

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### *Addition of CLIA Edits to Certain Health Care Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Codes for Mohs Surgery*

#### Key Words

MM3458, CR3458, R434CP, CLIA, HCPCS, 17304, 17305, 17306, 17307, 17310, Waiver, Laboratory, Mohs

#### Provider Types Affected

Physicians and clinical diagnostic laboratories billing Medicare carriers for Mohs Surgery

#### Key Points

- The effective date of the instruction is July 1, 2005.
- The implementation date is July 5, 2005.
- The Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1998 (CLIA) require a facility to be appropriately certified for each test performed.
- A HCPCS code that includes a laboratory test is currently edited at the CLIA certificate level to ensure Medicare and Medicaid pay only laboratory tests performed by certified facilities.
- HCPCS codes, 17304, 17305, 17306, 17307, and 17310 for Mohs micrographic surgery, require a physician to act as both a surgeon and a pathologist.
- These HCPCS codes include the physician's microscopic examination and interpretation of tissue specimens.
- Currently, all laboratory tests covered under CLIA are edited at the CLIA certificate level.
- HCPCS 17304, 17305, 17306, 17307 and 17310 would require either
  - CLIA certificate of registration (certificate type code 9),
  - CLIA certificate of compliance (certificate type code 1), or
  - CLIA certificate of accreditation (certificate type code 3).

- A facility without a valid current CLIA certificate, with a current CLIA certificate of waiver (certificate type code 2), or with a current CLIA certificate for provider-performed microscopy procedures (certificate type code 4) will not be permitted to bill for these tests.
- Medicare carriers will deny payment if a CLIA # is not submitted on claims by facilities for the HCPCS codes of 17304, 17305, 17306, 17307, and 17310.

### Important Links

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM3458.pdf>

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R434CP.pdf>