
Program Memorandum Intermediaries/Carriers

Department of Health and
Human Services (DHHS)
HEALTH CARE FINANCING
ADMINISTRATION (HCFA)

Transmittal AB-00-134

Date: DECEMBER 29, 2000

CHANGE REQUEST 1479

SUBJECT: Cervical or Vaginal Smear Tests (Pap Smears) in Calendar Year (CY) 2001 Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory Fee Schedule

This Program Memorandum (PM) provides further clarification of the instructions for payment of Pap smears beginning in CY 2001. PM AB-00-109 (Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule and Laboratory Costs Subject to Reasonable Charge Payment Methodology) contained instructions for payment of Pap smears in CY 2001. See PM AB-99-99 (Change Request 1081), issued in December 1999, for background on this issue.

Payment for the Pap smear codes listed below will continue to have a national minimum payment amount (floor) of not less than \$14.60 for dates of service in the year 2001. If the pricing amount for the following Pap smear codes is less than \$14.60 for CY 2001, it must be increased to \$14.60. Standard Systems must be modified to assure payment of at least \$14.60 for dates of service January 1, 2001 and later.

The affected codes are G0123, G0143, G0144, G0145, G0147, G0148, P3000, 88142, 88143, 88144, 88145, 88147, 88148, 88150, 88152, 88153, 88154, 88164, 88165, 88166, and 88167. As previously instructed, continue to gap-fill codes 88142, 88143, 88144, 88145, 88147, 88148. While the minimum payment amount may not be less than \$14.60, the gap-fill amount reported to the RO can be any amount (i.e. either more or less than \$14.60). Carriers should also gap-fill the corresponding screening Pap smear codes G0123, G0143, G0144, G0145, G0147, and G0148.

If a claim that was paid at lower payment amount, because the contractor applied either a fee schedule or national limitation amount below \$14.60, is brought to the contractor's attention, the contractor should make an appropriate adjustment.

The effective date for this PM is January 1, 2001.

The implementation date for this PM is January 1, 2001.

These instructions should be implemented within your current operating budget.

This PM may be discarded after December 31, 2001.

If you have any questions, contact Brett James on 410-786-9358.