ACL Laboratories
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Test Bulletin

July 2019

New Medicare Cards: Medicare Beneficiary ID (MBI) System Restrictions

Beginning Monday, April 1, 2018, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) began mailing updated Medicare cards with new ID numbers known as **Medicare Beneficiary Identifiers (MBIs)**.

These MBIs are replacing the existing Social Security Number (SSN) based Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN) on the new Medicare cards and in the systems Medicare uses now. At this time, CMS has completed mailing all the new Medicare cards to their beneficiaries.

ACL Laboratories System Upgrades/MBI Number Constraints:

Effective Tuesday, January 1, 2020, CMS will no longer accept the Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN) beneficiary number on claims or for eligibility requests. In preparation for the end of the transition period, ACL Laboratories is making updates in its financial information systems to no longer allow the HICN beneficiary number to be entered and will only accept the new MBI number format.

What does this mean to ACL clients?

ACL is asking that as of July 1, 2019, all client orders for CMS beneficiaries are submitted with only the new MBI number format. Orders submitted with the old HICN number will be accepted, however, may result in delayed processing and requests from our Billing staff for the correct CMS beneficiary number. It is the client's responsibility to provide the accurate policy ID.

CMS is informing Medicare patients to provide their new Medicare card when they seek medical care. It is important to protect the identity of Medicare patients by receiving and using their new MBIs whenever possible.

Below are three ways the new MBIs can be obtained:

- Directly from Medicare patients: Medicare is mailing the new Medicare cards in phases by geographic location to people with Medicare. Ask Medicare patients for their new Medicare card when they seek medical care. If they have received a new card but don't have it with them at the time of service, remind them they can use **MyMedicare.gov** to get their new Medicare number.
- Use the Medicare Administrative Contractors' (MAC's) secure MBI look-up tool: **Learn about** and **sign up** for the Portal to use the tool when it is available **no later than June 2018.** MBIs can be looked up for Medicare patients who don't have their new cards when they seek medical care.
- Check the **remittance advice: Starting in October 2018** through the end of the transition period, Medicare will return the MBI on every remittance advice when claims are submitted with valid and active HICNs.

Help protect your patient's personal identity by getting their new Medicare Beneficiary Identifier and using it for Medicare business, including claims submission and eligibility transactions. Give the Get Your New Medicare Card flyer to patients who do not have a new card.

CMS has multiple resources to help with using the new Medicare cards. For additional information regarding the new MBI and specific deadlines surrounding this effort, access the link provided below:

http://portal.acllab.net/pmo/675256/Communications/TransitiontoNewMedicareNumbersandCards-909365_CMS.pdf

ACL Laboratories Announces New Test Swabone™ Mycoplasma Genitalium by TMA (Test Order Code SWOMG)

Effective Wednesday, July 17, 2019, ACL Laboratories will offer a new test Swabone™ Mycoplasma Genitalium by TMA (Test Order Code SWOMG).

The SWOMG assay is based on FDA approved Aptima Hologic TMA (Target Mediated Amplification) reagents capable of detecting Mycoplasma Genitalium. SWOMG is validated on the following sample types:

- Endocervical and Male Urethral Swab Specimens
- Male and Female Urine Specimens
- Rectal Specimens

Reimbursement Guidelines: Subject to Medicare guidelines for coverage and may require a signed Advance Beneficiary Notice of Noncoverage (ABN).

http://supplies.acllaboratories.com/_admin/upload-area/files/DOS%20LINKS/2017%20DOS%20Links/6.28.17%20Build%20Cycle/ABN%20Form%20Update%20June%202017.pdf **Click here to download the ABN form.**

This test may not be covered by all insurance plans, may result in higher co-pays/deductibles and/or may require insurance preauthorization. Patients should contact their insurance provider with questions.

Prior authorization may be required in order for the testing to be reimbursed. Clinicians ordering this test must obtain any authorization required by the insurer.

Genetic testing is a limited benefit for Medicaid recipients and patients who are insured through Medicare Advantage and Commercial plans. Prior Authorization may be required in order for the testing to be reimbursed. Prior to ordering this test obtain any authorization required by the insurer. Pre-symptomatic genetic tests and services used to detect an undiagnosed disease or disease predisposition are not a Medicare benefit and are not covered. Similarly, Medicare may not reimburse the costs of tests/examinations that assess the risk of a condition unless the risk assessment clearly and directly effects the management of the patient. Medicare beneficiaries should be asked to assume financial responsibility for the cost of testing by signing an Advance Beneficiary Notice of Noncoverage (ABN).

For additional information regarding this test, as well as specimen collection requirements, please contact ACL Client Services at 1.800.877.7016 or visit our website at acllaboratories.com/test-catalog/.

ACL Laboratories Discontinues In-House Testing for Test Order Codes: HIVGEN, HIVING, TOXPCR and PRVB19

Effective Wednesday, July 17, 2019, ACL Laboratories will discontinue in-house testing and send the following tests to ARUP.

Current ACL Test Order Code	Current ACL Test Name	ARUP Test Order Code (Effective 7/17/2019)	ARUP Test Name (Effective 7/17/2019)
HIVGEN	HIV Genotyping and Drug Resistance	**HIVGEN**	HIV 1 Genotype by Sequencing
HIVING	HIV Integrase and Drug Resistance	**HIVING**	Integrase Inhibitor Resistance by Sequencing
PRVB19	Parvovirus B19 DNA Detection by PCR	**Miscellaneous**	ARUP test 0055591 (Toxoplasma)
TOXPCR	Toxoplasma gondii by PCR	**Miscellaneous**	ARUP test 0060043 (Parvovirus)

For additional information regarding these tests, as well as specimen collection requirements, please contact ACL Client Services at 1.800.877.7016 or visit our website at acllaboratories.com/test-catalog/.

ACL Testing Methodology Changes from Rapid Antigen/Culture Techniques to Rapid Molecular Testing for Detection of Group A Streptococcus and Influenza

Effective Wednesday, July 17, 2019, ACL Laboratories will make the following testing methodology changes.

Current Test Name	Current Test Order Code	Test Name (effective 7/17/2019)	Test Order Code (effective 7/17/2019)
Group A *Streptococcus* by Rapid Antigen	RSTREP	Group A Strep Throat PCR	GASPCR
Influenza A/B by Rapid Antigen	FLUAG	Rapid Influenza A/B by PCR	FLUPCR

Group A *Streptococcus* by Rapid Antigen (Test Order Code RSTREP) and Influenza A/B by Rapid Antigen (Test Order Code FLUAG) will be discontinued effective Wednesday, July 17, 2019.

Group A Strep Throat PCR (Test Order Code GASPCR) and Rapid Influenza A/B by PCR (Test Order Code FLUPCR) offer a significant increase in sensitivity and specificity over the rapid antigen tests they will replace. Due to this increased sensitivity, "Negative" Group A Strep Throat PCR results will not require a confirmatory culture.

Note: Advocate Aurora Health Providers may continue performing the rapid antigen tests in their offices or departments; however, the tests ***must*** be performed by the clinical staff using the following test order codes:

- POCT Rapid Strep A (Px Code POC14)
- POCT Influenza A/B (Px Code POC214)

For additional information regarding these tests, as well as specimen collection requirements, please contact ACL Client Services at 1.800.877.7016 or visit our website at acllaboratories.com/test-catalog/.

ACL Laboratories Urinalysis/Urine Culture Specimen Collection Device Guidelines Update

Attention: Please comply with the following protocols to ensure ACL Laboratories expedites the specimen processing and turn-around time of your urine samples.

ACL Laboratories uses the red/yellow top tube for urinalysis testing.

Red/yellow tops:

- Contain a preservative that prevents the degeneration of cellular elements and the overgrowth of bacteria, without interfering with testing methods
- Are able to extend stability of the sample for testing to 48 hours
- **Cannot** be used for urine cultures

Urines collected in other containers without the preservative are ***only stable for 2 hours*** at room temperature. Refrigerated stability varies and may be as short as 8 hours in extremely abnormal urines.

It is extremely important to submit a 4.0mL gray top culture tube, along with the red/yellow top, on any urinalysis tests that have reflex culture testing as a component. **If the 4.0mL gray top is not submitted, a subsequent culture that reflexes will have to be cancelled/credited.**

Please consult the table below to identify which tests require and which do not require a gray top to accompany a red/yellow top:

Test Name	Test Order Code	Specimen Collection Container
Urinalysis Screen, Urine Complete	USCR, UCOM	1 red/yellow top
Urinalysis Screen and Urine Culture Reflex, Urinalysis Complete **and** Urine Culture Reflex	UACS, UCOMCS	1 red/yellow top **and** 1 small gray top
*Urinalysis Screen or Urine Complete **and** Urine Culture	USCR or UCOM and URC	1 red/yellow top **and** 1 small gray top
Urine Culture	URC	1 small gray top

***Note:** Do not order a culture reflex urinalysis test (Test Order Codes UCOMCS or UACS) with a Urine Culture (Test Order Code URC), as this can accidentally cause duplicate testing and billing to the patient for a second culture test being potentially performed.

For additional information regarding these tests, as well as specimen collection requirements, please contact ACL Client Services at 1.800.877.7016 or visit our website at acllaboratories.com/test-catalog/.