



Modifier QW Fact Sheet

QW CLIA Waived Test

The Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) of 1988 **require all laboratory testing sites to have one of the following certificates** to legally perform clinical laboratory testing:

Certificate of Waiver	Certificate of Registration
Certificate of Accreditation	Certificate for Physician-Performed Microscopy

Certain CLIA Certificates that have been issued may limit the holder to perform only certain tests. There are only two types of CLIA certificates that limit holders to certain test procedures:

- Certificate of Waiver
- Certificate of Physician Performed Microscopy Procedures (PPMP).

If a service is denied as not covered under your CLIA certificate, you may not bill the beneficiary for the service.

If a provider currently has one Medicare Part B provider number covering more than one clinical lab testing site (e.g., an office on Main Street and an office on Oak Street), both sites require a CLIA number. The provider should use the CLIA number that specifically represents the site where the test(s) was/were performed.

- All clinical diagnostic laboratories must include their CLIA numbers on all claims to avoid an unprocessable rejection. The CLIA number must be placed in Item 23 of the CMS-1500 claim form. Electronic submitters using the ANSI X12 4010 version should use segment 2-180-REF02 (X4).
- **Please note: A CLIA Waived Test still requires the provider to include their CLIA number on the claim.**
- CLIA waived tests must have the **modifier QW** to be recognized as a waived test.