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TO: Independent Clinical Laboratories
Physician Office Laboratories

SUBJECT: Billing Problems With Laboratories Holding a Certificate for
Physician-Performed Microscopy Procedures (PPMP) When Using Physicians Current
Procedural Terminology (CPT-4) Code 81000

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

BACKGROUND: Laboratories holding a certificate for physician-performed
are accustomed to using the HCPCS code 81000 to report the combined urinalysis
and microscopy have received claim denials. This is because 81000 does not
specify non-automated urinalysis testing and, therefore, was classified as a
procedure beyond the scope of the certificate for physician-performed
microscopy procedures.

The federal Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), the agency responsible
for CLIA policy, has received numerous inquiries regarding the use of CPT-4
code 81000. Based upon a HCFA review, it has been determined that it is now
acceptable for laboratories holding a certificate for physician-performed
microscopy procedures to utilize HCPCS code 81000.

ACTION: Until further notice, laboratories holding a certificate for

If you have any questions regarding this Newsletter, please contact Phyllis
Valeri-Bruschini, Laboratory Consultant, at 609-588-4380.

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