

## Payment Policy | Date of Service for Laboratory Specimens



**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 06|16|2009  
**POLICY LAST UPDATED:** 09|07|2022

### OVERVIEW

This administrative policy is to document payment by date of service (DOS) for laboratory specimens.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Rhode Island will follow CMS guidelines regarding the date of service of laboratory specimens.

### MEDICAL CRITERIA

Not Applicable

### PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Not Applicable

### POLICY STATEMENT

The DOS of the test shall be the date the specimen was collected. However, if a specimen is collected over a period that spans two calendar days, then the DOS shall be the date the collection ended.

The following two exceptions apply to the DOS policy for laboratory tests:

#### A. DOS for Tests Performed on Stored Specimens:

In the case of a test performed on a stored specimen, if a specimen was stored for less than or equal to 30 calendar days from the date it was collected, the DOS of the test must be the date the test was performed only if:

- The test is ordered by the patient's physician at least 14 days following the date of the patient's discharge from the hospital;
- The specimen was collected while the patient was undergoing a hospital surgical procedure;
- It would be medically inappropriate to have collected the sample other than during the hospital procedure for which the patient was admitted;
- The results of the test do not guide treatment provided during the hospital stay; and
- The test was reasonable and medically necessary for treatment of an illness.

If the specimen was stored for more than 30 calendar days before testing, the specimen is considered to have been archived and the DOS of the test must be the date the specimen was obtained from storage.

#### B. DOS for Chemotherapy Sensitivity Tests Performed on Live Tissue:

In the case of a chemotherapy sensitivity test performed on live tissue, the DOS of the test must be the date the test was performed only if:

- The decision regarding the specific chemotherapeutic agents to test is made at least 14 days after discharge;
- The specimen was collected while the patient was undergoing a hospital surgical procedure;

- It would be medically inappropriate to have collected the sample other than during the hospital procedure for which the patient was admitted;
- The results of the test do not guide treatment provided during the hospital stay; and
- The test was reasonable and medically necessary for treatment of an illness.

For purposes of applying the above exception, a “chemotherapy sensitivity test” is defined as a test that requires a fresh tissue sample to test the sensitivity of tumor cells to various chemotherapeutic agents. CMS identifies such tests through program instructions issued to the Medicare contractors.<sup>1</sup>

### COVERAGE

Benefits may vary between groups and contracts. Please refer to the appropriate Benefit Booklet, Evidence of Coverage or Subscriber Agreement for applicable laboratory testing benefits/coverage.

### BACKGROUND

This administrative policy is to document payment by date of service (DOS) for laboratory specimens.

### CODING

Not Applicable

### RELATED POLICIES

None

### PUBLISHED

Provider Update, November 2022

Provider Update, December 2019

### REFERENCES:

1. Accessed 6/4/09: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R1319CP.pdf>.
2. Lusky, K. Wins, worries on reimbursement battlefields. College of American Pathologists;2008 Archive. Accessed on June 4, 2009: <http://www.cap.org>.
3. Office of Inspector General. *Review of Medicare Payments to VNA Care Network, Inc., for home health services preceded by a hospital discharge*. July 2007. Accessed on June 4, 2009: <http://www.oig.hhs.gov/oas/reports/region1/10600514.pdf>.
4. U.S. Government Publishing Office. *Title 42 - Public Health Chapter IV - CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES Subchapter B - MEDICARE PROGRAM Part 414 - PAYMENT FOR PART B MEDICAL AND OTHER HEALTH SERVICES Subpart G - Payment for New Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory Tests Section 414.510 - Laboratory date of service for clinical laboratory and pathology specimens*. Accessed 9/26/19: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CFR-2012-title42-vol3/pdf/CFR-2012-title42-vol3-sec414-510.pdf>

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