

Performing and Billing Medicare Services as Ordered Regarding CBC (Complete Blood Counts)

We recently received a general bulletin from the regional Medicare carrier (WPS) reminding all providers that: *CMS regulations state that the physician must clearly order tests and services to be performed and only services ordered by the physician should be performed and billed to Medicare.*

The bulletin continued on stating: *Recent Comprehensive Error Rate Testing (CERT) reviews for services billed under CPT 85025 or CPT 85027 have found instances where either the documentation, or the physician order, does not support the service billed to Medicare. One example of recent findings from the CERT contractor includes:*

- *If a physician orders a "CBC," then only a CBC without differential, 85027, should be performed and billed.*
- *If a physician orders a "CBC with differential," then only a CBC with differential, 85025, should be performed and billed.*

As a reminder to all clients who send their patients to the PSC with a script, if a CBC **with differential** is desired, then the order must specifically be written in that manner. If the order or script states only "CBC", then a Hemogram (CPT 85027) will be performed.

In order to make naming conventions consistent and in order to clarify ordering, we will be making the following change in our reporting system, Labtest and on the requisition (pending next printing):

Order #	CPT Code	Current Descriptor	Revised Descriptor
40300	85025	CBC w/ Auto Diff	(no change)
41200	85027	Hemogram	CBC w/o Diff (Hemogram)

If there are questions, please contact our Call Center (402-484-5462) or contact your account representative.

Thank you for your help in clarifying orders and staying within compliance according to CMS/Medicare requirements.