

asim



american society of internal medicine

May 29, 1996

Steve Pelovitz
Associate Administrator For Operations and Resource Management
Health Care Financing Administration
7500 Security Boulevard
Room C5-1603
Baltimore, Maryland 21244

RE: Billing Codes for New Waived Test Systems

Dear Mr. Pelovitz:

On behalf of the American Society of Internal Medicine (ASIM), I am writing to urge that the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) expedite its process for assigning billing codes for new laboratory testing procedures. The current process has generated significant concern among our membership given the lengthy time being taken by HCFA to issue these codes.

HCFA approved three new testing procedures for the waived category of the CLIA program months ago, yet the billing codes for these new tests have yet to be released. This delay is cumbersome to physicians as it means they are not able to bill Medicare for the testing services that they are providing. ASIM encourages HCFA to announce the codes for the Quidel QuickVue In-Line One-Step Strep A test, Serim Pyloritek test kit, and Cholestech LDX system promptly. Additionally, as future tests are added to the waived category, ASIM urges HCFA to assign them codes in a more expeditious manner.

A response as to when we might expect the billing codes for the new waived tests is requested.

If you have any questions about this letter please contact Tina Weatherwax, ASIM's Health Policy Analyst, at (202) 466-0285.

Sincerely,



Alan Nelson, MD
Executive Vice President

GOVATWEATHER/CODING.LTR

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