

Managed Care Bulletin



Uncover hidden risk for
heart attack and stroke

December 2008

To: diaDexus Customers

From: John Ridge, Director of Managed Care and Reimbursement, diaDexus

Subject: **Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, HealthAmerica and Health Assurance of PA
Reimbursement for the PLAC® Test for Lp-PLA₂**

Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield with approximately 3.5 million covered lives in PA and HealthAmerica, and Health Assurance of PA with over 640,000 covered lives have confirmed that they will reimburse for Lp-PLA₂ testing with the PLAC® Test effective immediately. This is excellent news for PLAC Test customers and for providers that treat patients under these health plans.

Background

When speaking with providers, please note the following:

- Nearly 50% of patients with heart disease have below-average cholesterol levels, highlighting the need for additional risk markers.
- In the June, 2008 supplement to *The American Journal of Cardiology*, an expert consensus panel concluded the following:
 - Lp-PLA₂ testing is recommended in moderate or high-risk persons to further stratify risk.
 - Many high-risk persons taking statins have significant residual risk identifiable with Lp-PLA₂ testing.
 - Individuals with Lp-PLA₂ levels greater than 200 ng/mL warrant risk reclassification and further reduction of target LDL levels.
 - Recommended inclusion of Lp-PLA₂ testing in cardiovascular risk assessment guidelines.

Coding

Effective January 1, 2007, the American Medical Association (AMA) assigned the following category 1 CPT code to describe and report the PLAC® Test.

CPT Code: 83698 Lipoprotein-associated phospholipase A₂ (Lp-PLA₂)

Please let me know if I can answer any questions concerning this exciting news! I can be reached at 317.582.0429.

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