

Managed Care Bulletin



Uncover hidden risk for
heart attack and stroke

September 2008

To: diaDexus Customers

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

Subject: CIGNA Healthcare

CIGNA HealthCare, the 6th largest health plan in the country with over 9 million covered lives has established positive coverage for Lp-PLA₂ testing with the PLAC Test effective August 15, 2008.

The following outlines the details of how Lp-PLA₂ will be covered in a clinical setting. Please feel free to share this information with providers.

CIGNA HealthCare now covers Lp-PLA₂ testing as medically necessary, for ANY of the following individuals who are at intermediate-or high-risk for developing CHD:

- any age with at least two or more major risk factors (e.g., smoking, hypertension, family history of premature CHD, low levels of HDL cholesterol).
- age 65 years or greater with one major risk factor.
- cigarette smoking.
- fasting blood glucose level of greater than or equal to 100 mg/dl.
- metabolic syndrome.

Background

In the CIGNA HealthCare policy notice, they report the following facts that support their coverage decision:

- Nearly 50% of patients with heart disease have below-average cholesterol levels, suggestive that additional factors play an important role.
- In the June, 2008 supplement to *The American Journal of Cardiology* the 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. Therefore, the panel defined a simplified approach to determining criteria for testing of persons who are at least moderate-risk for CHD.
 - Lp-PLA₂ levels greater than 200 ng/mL warrants risk reclassification and further reduction of LDL levels.
 - Suggested frequency of Lp-PLA₂ testing: measure individuals with Lp-PLA₂ <200 ng/mL annually for continued monitoring of risk classification.

Coding

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

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

Attached please find a copy of the policy and CIGNA HealthCare membership by state for your review and use. 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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