

Managed Care Bulletin



Uncover hidden risk for
heart attack and stroke

October 2008

To: diaDexus Customers

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

Subject: Medical Mutual of Ohio Coverage for the PLAC[®] Test for Lp-PLA₂

Medical Mutual of Ohio, the largest health plan in Ohio with approximately 3 million covered lives has confirmed that they do not consider Lp-PLA₂ testing with the PLAC Test as an experimental service. If claims are denied as experimental, please notify me and I will investigate the denial with Medical Mutual of Ohio. This is excellent news for PLAC Test customers and providers that treat patients under this health plan.

Background

When speaking with Ohio providers, please note the following:

- Nearly 50% of patients with heart disease have below-average cholesterol levels, suggestive that additional risk 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.
 - Recommended inclusion of Lp-PLA₂ testing in cardiovascular risk assessment guidelines

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)

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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