

# Managed Care Bulletin



Uncover hidden risk for  
heart attack and stroke

**January 2009**

To: diaDexus Customers

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

Subject: **Priority Health** Positive Coverage Decision for the PLAC<sup>®</sup> Test for Lp-PLA<sub>2</sub>

**Priority Health, with approximately 440,000 covered lives in Michigan, has published a positive coverage policy for Lp-PLA<sub>2</sub> testing with the PLAC<sup>®</sup> Test. This is excellent news for PLAC Test customers and providers that treat patients under this health plan.**

The following outlines the published detail of how Lp-PLA<sub>2</sub> will be covered in a clinical setting by Priority Health. Please feel free to share this information with providers.

In addition to traditional risk assessment, the following CVD risk marker is a covered benefit:

- Lipoprotein-associated phospholipase A<sub>2</sub> (Lp-PLA<sub>2</sub>) (PLAC), limited to one test per year.

## Background

When speaking with providers, please note the following:

- Nearly 50% of patients with heart disease have below-average cholesterol levels, suggesting that additional risk factors play an important role.
- 80% of people who develop CAD have the same blood cholesterol values as those who do not develop CAD.

## Coding

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

**CPT Code:** 83698 Lipoprotein-associated phospholipase A<sub>2</sub> (Lp-PLA<sub>2</sub>)

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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January 2009



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