

CBR202203: Lipid Panel Testing Guidance and Considerations



Caution

As you perform your internal compliance reviews, keep the following in mind:

Laboratory services are vulnerable to improper payments, particularly as the result of insufficient documentation and medical necessity errors.

Source: [2021 Medicare Fee-for-Service Supplemental Improper Payment Data](#). U.S.

Department of Health and Human Services. CMS.gov.



Review

Review encounter documentation and choose your code carefully, according to the service provided to the patient and the services documented for the encounter. Remember, if it was not documented, it was not done!



Implement: Lipid Panel Testing

Help reduce the possibility of improper payments by taking the following actions:

- Order lipid panel testing only as appropriate to each patient's clinical care.
- Review the guidance in the Office of Inspector General (OIG) [study](#) about billing for direct low-density lipoprotein (LDL) tests and lipid panels.
- Review documentation and code selection on a recurring schedule to ensure accuracy and compliance.

Source: [Medicare Could Have Saved up to \\$20 Million Over 5 Years if CMS Oversight Had Been](#)

[Adequate To Prevent Payments for Medically Unnecessary Cholesterol Blood Tests](#). OIG. OIG.HHS.gov