

MEDICARE PART A BULLETIN

April 29, 1998

General Medicare Bulletin G-325

TO: All Participating Medicare Providers

FROM: Program Relations

SUBJECT: **TEMPORARY CODES ESTABLISHED FOR SCREENING PAP SMEARS BY AUTOMATED THIN LAYER PREPARATION METHOD; EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1998.**

ATTENTION MEDICARE BUSINESS OFFICE MANAGER: Please distribute to all appropriate health care personnel.

The purpose of this bulletin is to formally publish the temporary codes for screening pap smears that are performed using the automated thin layer preparation method. These codes are now available for use effective for services furnished on or after January 1, 1998. Because there is a difference in technology from screening pap smears (HCPCS codes P3000 and P3001), it is necessary to use HCPCS codes that will reflect the new automated thin layer preparation method.

HCPCS codes are to be used for screening pap smears performed by the automated thin layer preparation method. All coverage and claims policies which apply to P3000 and P3001 apply to these codes G0123 and G0124. Women may receive a screening pap smear once every 3 years or more frequently if they meet a high risk category.

NEW CODES

G0123 Screening cytopathology, cervical or vaginal (any reporting system), collected in preservative fluid, automated thin layer preparation, screening by cytotechnologist under physician supervision.

G0124 Screening cytopathology, cervical or vaginal (any reporting system) collected in preservative fluid, automated thin layer preparation, requiring interpretation by physician.

MAPPING INFORMATION

Temporary code G0123 is priced at the same rate as CPT code 88142.

Temporary code G0124 is priced at the same rate as CPT code 88142.

PAYMENT INFORMATION

G0123 and G0124 are paid under the clinical diagnostic laboratory fee schedule.

CLAIMS INFORMATION

The Florida Shared System (FSS) will edit so that P3000 is not paid for in the same time frame as G0123.

FSS will edit so that P3001 is not paid for in the same time frame as G0124.

HIGH RISK FACTORS

The high risk factors for cervical and vaginal cancer are:

- Early onset of sexual activity (under 16 years of age);
- Multiple sexual partners (five or more in a lifetime);
- History of sexually transmitted disease (including HIV infection);
- Fewer than three negative or any pap smears within the previous 7 years; and
- DES (diethylstilbestrol) - exposed daughters of women who took DES during pregnancy.
- V76.2, special screening for malignant neoplasms of the cervix , **indicates low risk; and**
- V15.89, other specified personal history presenting hazards to health, **indicates high risk.**

**If pap smear claims do not reflect one of these
diagnosis codes, the claim will reject.**

Questions regarding this bulletin may be addressed to the Medicare Part A Customer Service Department by calling (904) 355-8899.