

Point of Care Testing to meet HEDIS metrics for behavioral healthcare providers

There are two quality measures that may be accomplished with a fingerstick blood test to meet HEDIS® metrics for Tennessee Health Link. These tests may be conducted in a behavioral health facility with an on-site mini-lab. The *Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA)* regulations apply to all sites that test human specimens used in health assessment; however, the tests discussed will qualify for a *CLIA* waiver.

Point of Care Testing (POCT) allows non-laboratory trained individuals to accurately and efficiently improve the screening rates for some diseases at the time of a regularly scheduled appointment.

HEDIS metric	Health Link star performance threshold	How to meet goal	Suggestions for Health Link groups
*Diabetes Screening for People with Schizophrenia or Bipolar Disorder Who Are Using Antipsychotic Medications	Performance goal > 82%	Those with a diagnosis of schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder or bipolar disorder who are not diabetic who had a glucose test or HbA1c	Performed with a fingerstick blood test at the point of care or in an outside laboratory: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit code for the lab test that is performed for reimbursement and for claims data to meet metric. • All results must be signed off by a provider.
*Metabolic Monitoring for Children and Adolescents on Antipsychotics	Performance goal > 33%	Those less than 18 years with two or more antipsychotic prescriptions who had metabolic testing (glucose and cholesterol testing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide appropriate follow-up for abnormal results. • Providers who do not have POCT may: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Write orders for testing on a prescription pad for members to take to PCP. ○ Communicate with PCP to complete recommended screenings. ○ Arrange testing to be done by an outside lab.

* Can be met in a lab with a *CLIA* waived certificate.

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Details for Health Link providers to meet the requirements

Performance of POCT is billed with an evaluation and management (E&M) visit with the test code included. Health plans reimburse practices for performing recommended blood tests.



Establish a CLIA waived lab:

- Visit <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/laboratory-quick-start-guide-cms-clia-certification.pdf>.
- Identify a lab director (for waived testing, can be anyone; RN recommended):
<https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/CLIA/Downloads/brochure7.pdf>.
 - Under *CLIA*, no formal education or training is required for the director or testing personnel in Certificate of Waiver (CW) sites. According to the CMS data, the top four categories for testing personnel were nurses (46%), medical assistants (25%), physicians (9%), and high school graduates (7%).

Training:

- CDC Laboratory Training example: <https://www.train.org/cdctrain/course/1056331/>
- OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Training:
 - https://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_BloodborneFacts/bbfact01.pdf
 - <https://www.osha.gov/bloodborne-pathogens>

Checklist for opening a CLIA-waived lab and application process:

- Visit <https://www.cdc.gov/labquality/docs/waived-tests/self-assessment-checklist-good-testing-practices.pdf>.
- Complete the application: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/CMS-Forms/CMS-Forms/Downloads/CMS116.pdf>.

Lab set-up:

- For glucose testing:
 - Glucometers can be purchased quite inexpensively over the counter (approximately \$15 to \$85).
 - Glucose test strips can be purchased over the counter (approximately 33 to 50 cents each).
- For lipids and A1c:
 - Analyzers and cassettes can be purchased through your medical supply source or directly from vendors. Some will require a minimum number of tests and will provide the equipment at no charge. Or the analyzers can be purchased.

Considerations in setting up your CLIA-waived testing lab:

- Process documentation:
 - Ordering testing
 - Returning results to provider
 - Communication with patient
 - Communication with primary care provider
 - Lab logs (quality control logs, etc.)
 - Hazardous waste disposal
 - Patient flow
- Space conversion:
 - Sink accessibility
 - Counter space/cabinet space
 - Refrigerator space (cannot share with food)
- Training and certification:
 - CLIA-waived certificate (bi-annual \$180)
 - OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Training (online \$20 annually)
 - CDC Laboratory Training (online)
 - Documentation requirements (Quality Control and training notebook)

Medical supply vendor for:

- Testing equipment:
 - Glucometer
 - Glucose test strips
 - A1c analyzer
 - A1c cassettes
 - Lipid analyzer
 - Lipid cassettes
- General lab supplies:
 - Alcohol preps
 - Hand sanitizer
 - Sharps containers
 - Lancets
 - Gloves
 - Cotton balls
 - Capillary tubes
 - Band-Aids
 - Antiseptic wipes for surfaces
 - Hazardous waste receptacle (for any contaminated supplies such as used cassettes and strips)
 - Mini-fridge (some cassettes and controls have to be refrigerated)
 - Refrigerator thermometer
 - Test controls