

Common Tests in a Physician Office Under PAMA

Below are just an example of some of the tests facing severe cuts under the new Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule. These tests are integral to the practice of medicine, especially in rural areas where there are few alternatives beyond near patient (in-office) testing.

The “2017 National Limit Amount” serves as a baseline and the cuts are capped at 10% over the next three years (a cap of 15% thereafter) with a resurvey of the fee scheduled in three years. The “Weighted Median Amount” is what the eventual payment amount will be after the phase in of the full cut amount.

HCPCS Code	Description	Value to diagnosis & treatment	2017 National Limit Amount	2018 Amount with 10% cap	Weighted Median	Percentage of Cut over 3 years	Number of Tests 2016 (in Millions)
83036	A1C Test	Treatment of chronic diabetes	\$13.32	\$11.99	\$8.50	-36.19%	19.1
85025	Complete CBC with auto differential	Diagnosis of infection, anemia etc.	\$10.66	\$9.59	\$6.88	-35.46%	41
80053	Comprehensive Metabolic panel	Check major organ function	\$14.49	\$13.04	\$9.08	-37.34%	41
84443	Thyroid Test	Monitoring thyroid function and medication	\$23.05	\$20.75	\$14.87	-35.49%	21.3
85610	Prothrombin Time	Monitoring patients on Coumadin and coagulation disorders	\$5.39	\$4.85	\$4.29	-20.41%	19.1
83880	Assay of natriuretic peptide	Testing for heart failure	\$46.56	\$41.90	\$39.26	-15.68%	1.4