

# Modifier QW-Medicare/Novitas

## What you need to know

Modifier QW is defined as a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA) waived test. Some things to keep in mind when appending modifier QW to your lab service/s:

- The modifier is used to identify waived tests and must be submitted in the first modifier field.
- CLIA waived tests requiring the QW modifier are considered simplified analysis tests.
- CLIA requires all laboratory testing sites to have one of the following certificates to legally perform clinical laboratory testing:
  - Certificate of waiver
  - Certificate of registration
  - Certificate of accreditation
  - Certificate for physician-performed microscopy
- Certain CLIA certificates that have been issued may limit the holder to perform only certain test; these are:
  - Certificate of waiver
  - Certificate of physician performed microscopy procedures (PMPP)
- If a provider currently has one Medicare Part B provider number covering more than one clinical lab testing site (e.g., an office on Main Street and an office on Oak Street), both sites require a CLIA number. The provider should use the CLIA number that specifically represents the site where the test(s) was/were performed.
- All clinical diagnostic laboratories must include their CLIA numbers on all claims to avoid an unprocessable rejection. The CLIA number must be placed in Item 23 of the CMS-1500 claim form or the electronic equivalent. **Note:** The CLIA number is not required on the ASC X12 institutional claim data set or its related paper Form CMS-1450.

To view CMS CLIA waived test list, refer to Tests Granted Waived Status Under CLIA. [🔗](#)

**Note:** A CLIA waived test still requires the provider to include their CLIA number on the claim

### Appropriate uses:

Any test on the CMS CLIA waived test list that has a QW beside the procedure code (i.e., 80047QW).

### Inappropriate uses:

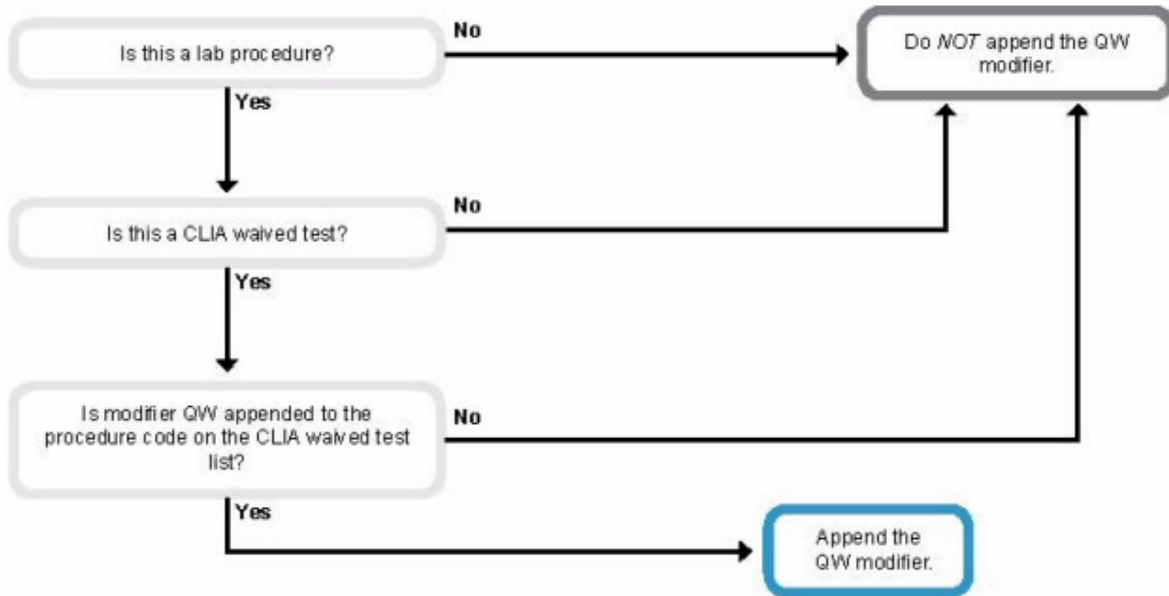
- Any code that is not on the CLIA waived test list.
- Any test on the CMS CLIA waived test list that does not have a QW beside the procedure code.

### Example



A CMS CONTRACTOR

## Modifier QW



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### References:

- [CLIA Categorization of Tests](#)
- [CLIA Waived Test List](#)
- [CMS CLIA webpage](#)
- [CMS IOM, Publication 100-04, Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 16, Section 70](#)
- [Tests Subject to CLIA](#)