

When Ordering Panels and Profiles

- **The Center for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) takes this approach to panels/profiles:**
 - 1 CMS wants the tests performed - to match the diagnostic need of the patient, rather than the possible output of a particular automated analyzer.
 - 2 CMS does not want laboratories to influence physician's choices by offering numerous multi-test panels for the sake of laboratory convenience and revenue.
- **When ordering panels or profiles, each test in the battery should be medically necessary**
 - AMA defines the following (9) panels as *organ or disease oriented panels*.
 - **Look at each test within the panel - to see if it is supported by the diagnosis(s) submitted**
 - **ICD-9-CM codes must be coded to fullest extent – all digits necessary beyond the decimal point**
 - Medicare/Medicaid allows multiple diagnosis codes to be submitted in support of Medical Necessity when multiple diagnostic services are ordered, such as in a panel / profile.
- **The AMA organ or disease oriented Panels:**
 1. **Basic Metabolic Panel** - Calcium; Carbon dioxide; Chloride; Creatinine; Glucose; Potassium; Sodium; Urea Nitrogen (BUN)
 2. **Comprehensive Metabolic Panel** - Albumin; Bilirubin-Total; Calcium; Carbon_dioxide; Chloride; Creatinine; Glucose; Phosphate, alkaline; Potassium; total Protein; Sodium; Transferase, alanine amino (ALT); Transferase, aspartate amino (AST); Urea Nitrogen (BUN);
 3. **Electrolyte panel** - Carbon dioxide; Chloride; Potassium; Sodium
 4. **Obstetric panel** - Hemogram, automated and/or appropriate manual differential WBC count (CBC)/ Hemogram, and platelet count, with automated differential; Hepatitis B surface antigen; Rubella antibody; Syphilis screening test; Red cell antibody screen; ABO and Rh typing;
 5. **Lipid panel** - Cholesterol-Total serum; Lipoprotein- direct measurement - high density cholesterol (HDL); Triglycerides;
 6. **Acute Hepatitis panel** - Hepatitis A antibody/IgM; Hepatitis B Core Antibody/IgM; Hepatitis B surface antigen; Hepatitis C antibody
 7. **Renal function panel** - Albumin; Calcium; Carbon dioxide; Chloride; Creatinine; Glucose, Phosphorus inorganic (phosphate); Potassium; Sodium; Urea nitrogen (BUN);
 8. **Hepatic function panel** - Albumin; Total bilirubin; Direct bilirubin; Alkaline Phosphatase; Total protein; ALT; AST;
 9. **General health panel** - The comprehensive metabolic panel; CBC; Thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH)
- **Customized Panels/Profiles** are batteries of individual tests that are ordered together as a package, they are implemented at the request of a physician or physician group under a *unique single name*, Test batteries ordered under a "*customer-unique name*" are not considered a specific order by the Office of Inspector General (OIG) / Medicare - *since the unique name does not define the specific tests requested and often requires the performing laboratory to interpret what tests are to be performed*

If you order a panel or profile using a “customer-unique name”:

You will most likely be contacted by the laboratory – requesting that you send a corrected order, unless:

- All of the component tests are listed behind / under the special customer-unique name on the request. {This is the best way for customers who have their own printed request forms}
- or
- Requesting group will be asked to sign an annual “*Provider Acknowledgement for Custom Panels/Profiles*” to assure documentation of the specific tests in the battery, whenever the panel is ordered on a Medicare/Medicaid patient. (*Lab required to have this documentation of the actual tests that are being requested - when a customer unique panel name is used to order*)

Version 4, March 2004

Reviewed March 2010

Modified May 2010