

ALLINA HEALTH LABORATORY

Memo

To: Allina Health Laboratory outreach clients

From: Allina Health Laboratory outreach services

Date: February 25, 2021

Re: CMS Principle/primary diagnosis edit

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has a policy which defines a list of diagnosis codes that will never be accepted as the first diagnosis on a claim. The unacceptable principal/primary diagnosis list is defined by the Medicare Code Editor (MCE) but there are some exclusions to the MCE list due to current OPPS coding requirements and guidelines.

When completing the Allina Health testing request form, the principle/primary diagnosis code should be indicated in the first diagnosis code box. If a client submits work to Allina Health Laboratory with no acceptable principle/primary diagnosis code, our billing department will contact you requesting additional information.

The CMS Quarterly Release files listings are located on this site: [OCE Quarterly Release Files | CMS](#). Click on the current link for the **OCE Quarterly Data Files** and accept the End User Point and Click Agreement. When the zip file opens, choose the **Report-Tables** folder, then the **Data_DX10** Excel file.

If you have any questions regarding this, contact CMS for further information.