



FEBRIDX® ACCESS ALERT

New Medicare Claims-Handling Update for CLIA-Waived Sites

Effective for dates of service October 1, 2026:
Medicare claims from CLIA Certificate of Waiver sites should report 0442U-QW for FebriDx so Medicare recognizes the test as CLIA-waived.

What CMS Changed

- **CMS announcement:** August 24, 2026
- **Effective date:** October 1, 2026
- **Implementation date:** October 5, 2026
- **Code:** 0442U-QW
- **FebriDx CLIA-waived effective date listed by CMS:** March 24, 2026

Why This Matters to Your Billing Team

- **Include the QW modifier.** CMS instructs Medicare contractors to deny applicable claims from waiver sites when the required QW modifier is omitted.
- **Update billing workflows before respiratory season.** Review charge masters, EHR/lab build, claim edits, billing guides and staff instructions so 0442U-QW is used for applicable Medicare claims beginning October 1.
- **Applies nationwide to Medicare-billing CLIA-waived settings.** This is particularly relevant to urgent care, primary care, student health, FQHC/RHC and physician-office laboratories.

Important: What This Update Does NOT Mean

This is not a new Medicare coverage determination or a new payment rate. The CMS instruction addresses waived-test recognition and claims submission. Medical-necessity coverage requirements and the established CLFS payment amount are separate considerations.

Recommended Action Before October 1

Share this update with your billing, coding, laboratory and revenue-cycle teams now. For Medicare claims at CLIA Certificate of Waiver sites, make sure FebriDx is configured as **0442U-QW** for applicable dates of service.

Questions or need FebriDx billing / implementation support?
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Source: CMS Change Request 14569, Transmittal 13884, issued August 24, 2026. CMS table lists 0442U-QW and a CLIA-waived effective date of March 24, 2026. CMS publication: www.cms.gov/files/document/r13884cp.pdf

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