



Information for Ambulance Services **CLIA and Certificates of Waiver**

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What is CLIA?

CLIA stands for Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments and is required for all Mississippi Licensed Ambulance Services providing laboratory testing (e.g., blood glucose levels, BinaxNOW).

Do other states have to do this or this just in Mississippi?

All states must comply with CMS CLIA requirements.

How do I apply for a Certificate of Waiver in the state of Mississippi?

To apply for a Certificate of Waiver, complete a CMS-116 form, which may be downloaded from www.cms.gov/CLIA. Once this form is completed and signed by the appointed laboratory director, you may submit it to CLIA applications (no payments) to the following:



Mississippi State Department of Health Licensure and Certification – CLIA
P.O. Box 1700 / Jackson, MS 39215-1700

Telephone: Main Office Number: 601-364-1100

Nancy Cheatham: 601-364-1115 / Felicia Calcote: 601-364-2707

Fax: 601-364-5053 / **Email:** CLIA-MSDH@msdh.ms.gov

How do I know if all my tests are classified as waived by the FDA?

Look in the manufacturer instructions for the CLIA classification (waived, moderate, or high complexity). If it is not listed there, check one of these websites to determine the complexity of your test:

<http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-andGuidance/Legislation/CLIA/Downloads/waivetbl.pdf>
(updated frequently)

<http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfCLIA/search.cfm>

<http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfCLIA/analyteswaived.cfm>

I am a county-owned service, does this apply to me?

If you perform any laboratory tests, such as blood glucose with a glucometer, you need to have a CLIA certificate for your location. If you do not perform any waived testing, then you do not

need a certificate. See the next question for combining county owned operations into one certificate to save money.

I am a county-owned service with another county-owned service based at the same location. Do we need 2 separate certificates (ex. County EMS and a County Fire Department)?

You may apply for one (1) certificate if you have the same tax ID and are a non-profit county owned provider. On the second page of the CMS-116 application, check the “YES” box for the Multiple Sites section of the application. Under the three possible multiple site exceptions, select the #2 option of the “not-for-profit or Federal, State or local government laboratory engaged in limited (<15 tests total) public health testing.” List the information for the second provider in the boxes at the bottom of page 2 so that both sites are compliant with federal CLIA regulations. Please make sure to provide each site operating under your certificate with a copy for display as per CMS mandates to stay in compliance.

I am a non-transport EMS service (ex. Fire departments, quick response unit, sheriff office, search and rescue department), does this apply to me?

If you perform any laboratory tests, such as blood glucose with a glucometer, you need to have a CLIA certificate. If you do not perform any waived tests, then you do not need a certificate.



I don't charge Medicare for this test; do I still need this?

Yes, if you perform any laboratory tests, such as blood glucose with a glucometer, regardless of how you bill for the services, you need to have a CLIA certificate for your location. If you do not perform any tests, then you do not need a certificate. Billing does not determine the need for a CLIA certificate. If you perform any laboratory services, you need to have a CLIA certificate.

I have a fixed wing/rotor wing ambulance service; does this apply to me or just to ground units?

If you perform any laboratory tests, such as blood glucose testing with a glucometer or blood gases, you need to have a CLIA certificate for your base location. The aircraft identification needs to be provided as a mobile testing site on the second page of the CMS-116 form.

My ambulance is run by the hospital and I use the hospital's CLIA number, do I still need to do this?

If you currently use a hospital CLIA number, you do not need to apply for a separate certificate. The Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) still needs to be added to the hospital CLIA certificate information in order for the ambulance to be compliant with federal CLIA regulations.

What address do I use on the application since my ambulance moves around from emergency to emergency?

You should complete the “home base” address in the CMS-116 form on page 1. However, on page 2, you should check the “YES” Box under Multiple Sites. Under the three multiple site exceptions, you should select number 1, for mobile units. Record the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) for each ambulance vehicle in this section, as directed. This will cover all testing in the ambulance as it moves from different locations away from the “home base”.



What are those regulations that apply to Certificates of Waiver?

The regulations for a Certificate of Waiver can be found at 42 CFR 493.35-493.39 in Subpart B. For a copy, you may download it from www.cms.gov/CLIA.

What happens if I don't do this?

Purposely failing to comply with this requirement may result in a termination of the Medicare/Medicaid provider agreement for the ambulance service. CMS makes the termination decision based on the information provided by this office of entities performing laboratory testing without a CLIA certificate.

What if my information changes? (Ex. if the laboratory director quits, or you move to a new location)

The notification requirements for Certificates of Waiver are located at 42 CFR 493.39. The laboratory must notify the Certification Bureau (via fax, email, or mail listed above) of changes in name, location, and director within 30 days of the change. A written notice of these changes is required; verbal notification is not sufficient. Please include your CLIA number, name of facility, and the changes required on your CLIA certificate. Include your contact information in case we have further questions.

What is all this I hear about glucometers and not using them on critically ill?

Is this about that? You may have heard about the FDA addressing the use of glucometers in healthcare. This is a separate issue. This memo is correcting the lack of CLIA certificates for emergency medical providers using laboratory tests such as glucometers and blood gas analyzers without a CLIA certificate, which is in violation of the 42 CFR 493 federal regulations.

What is the cost of a Certificate of Waiver?

A Certificate of Waiver costs \$150 for a two-year certificate. Do not include payment with the application. When the application has been entered in the CMS system, CMS will bill the facility directly; payment instructions will be listed on the payment coupon. Also, CMS bills



renewals six months in advance of the expiration date and payment instructions are provided with the renewal notice.

Who can I call to answer my questions?

For any further questions, please contact the Mississippi CLIA Program by calling 601-364-1100 or 601-364-1115 or by emailing CLIA-MSDH@msdh.ms.gov.



Why do I need one of these certificates now? I have never had one in the past, what changed?

If your service was not given the proper information concerning CLIA requirements in the past you still need to apply for a CLIA certificate to perform any laboratory testing, even if it is merely finger-stick glucose checks.