

IN THIS ISSUE

ADMINISTRATION

- ▶ [Discover the New Features of Our Improved Provider Manual](#)
- ▶ [GHI HMO Plans Now Underwritten By HIP](#)
- ▶ [State Sponsored Programs Rebranded](#)
- ▶ [Changes to Medicare PPO Prior Approval Rules for PT/OT/ST](#)
- ▶ [Medicaid Redesign Team Updates](#)
- ▶ [Claims Corner](#)
- ▶ [Behind the Scenes](#)

CLINICAL

- ▶ [Case Management Programs](#)
- ▶ [EmblemHealth Pharmaceutical Management Program](#)
- ▶ [Changes to Provider Attestation Form Submission](#)
- ▶ [High Risk Medications for Elderly Patients](#)
- ▶ [Do You Make Snap Decisions?](#)
- ▶ [Does Your Office Have a Flu Immunization Champion?](#)
- ▶ [Serology Testing Inappropriate for Detection of Active *H. pylori* Infection](#)
- ▶ [Correct Billing for Mammography Services](#)
- ▶ [CPT Codes for Tobacco Cessation Counseling](#)
- ▶ [Healthy Beginnings PATH](#)
- ▶ [Clinical Corner](#)
- ▶ [News&Notes Archive](#)

UPDATE DIRECTORY INFORMATION ▶

Review [your information](#) now to ensure you are correctly listed in our EmblemHealth directories. If any of your information has changed or is inaccurate, just follow our simple instructions to update your profile online. Can't update your information online? Fax your changes to our Provider Modifications team at **1-877-889-9061**.

Serology Testing Inappropriate for Detection of Active *H. pylori* Infection

H. pylori is one of the most common infectious pathogens and is a common cause of peptic ulcers and dyspepsia with a prevalence of 30-40 percent in the US.



In an attempt to promote best practice guidelines for *H. pylori* testing from the American College of Gastroenterology (ACG), EmblemHealth, in conjunction with Meridian Bioscience, Incorporated and Quest Diagnostics,

Incorporated launched the *H. pylori* initiative in 2011. A letter was sent to 2,161 providers advising against the continued use of serology testing for detecting active *H. pylori* infection and described alternative tests. (An endoscopy is recommended for patients over age 55 and for those under age 55 with alarming symptoms.)

Soon after, Quest Diagnostics offered on-site provider education and training to reinforce the message to providers. As a follow up, Quest Medical Directors called the top nine EmblemHealth providers with the highest utilization of serology testing to discuss practice patterns and to identify additional barriers. The providers welcomed the outreach and were able to discuss their individual practices and get a better understanding of best practices for testing *H. pylori* in their offices. Overall, the results for the call campaign demonstrated a 38 percent reduction of providers using the serology test.

EmblemHealth endorses the guidelines that recommend against the use of serology for *H. pylori* testing, and promote the use of tests for active infection, namely *H. pylori* stool antigen (HpSA®) and the 13C Urea Breath Test (UBT). The guidelines recommend test-treat-retest to confirm eradication. Both tests are available through Quest Diagnostics, our preferred laboratory provider. To order testing supplies, call your Quest representative or Quest Diagnostics Client Services at **1-866-MYQUEST** or (1-866-697-8378). [H. pylori guidelines](#) and other clinical practice guidelines are available in our [Clinical Corner](#).