LABORATORY

ECONOMICS

Competitive Market Analysis For Laboratory Management Decision Makers

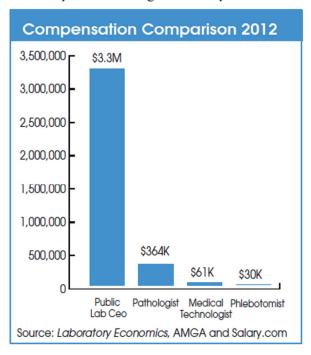
CLOCK IS TICKING FOR LABS TO SUBMIT JUSTIFICATION FOR HIGHER MDx TEST RATES

Contractors (MACs) for approximately 114 molecular diagnostic CPT codes. Payment rates for specific codes vary widely by MAC and, on average, are 25% to 30% below rates labs had received under the old code-stack method of billing. On the bright side, after four months of holding claims, most carriers are now processing and paying MDx test claims. Continued on page 2.

PUBLICLY-TRADED LAB CEOs PAID AVERAGE OF \$3.3M

The chief executives at 12 publicly-traded lab companies were paid an average of \$3.3 million each last year, according to an analysis of

shareholder proxy statements by Laboratory Economics. That's nearly 10 times the average annual compensation of \$363,559 for pathologists, more than 50 times the average \$61,398 per year paid to medical technologists and 100 times the average of \$30,231 for phlebotomists, according to the latest surveys from the American Medical Group Management Association (AMGA) and Salary.com. Full details on pages 6-8.



QUEST BUYS ADVANCED TOXICOLOGY NETWORK

uest Diagnostics has acquired the toxicology and clinical laboratory business (DBA Advanced Toxicology Network) from Concentra, a subsidiary of Humana Inc. In addition, Quest Diagnostics has entered into a long-term agreement with Concentra to be its primary provider of workplace drug toxicology and clinical laboratory testing. *Continued on page 11*.

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