
From: Medicare information for physicians [mailto:PHYSICIANS-L@LIST.NIH.GOV] **On Behalf Of** CMS CMSProviderResource
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 11:46 AM
To: PHYSICIANS-L@LIST.NIH.GOV
Subject: Signature on Requisition for Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory Tests

In the Monday, November 29, 2010, Medicare Physician Fee Schedule final rule, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) finalized its proposed policy to require a physician's or qualified non-physician practitioner's (NPP) signature on requisitions for clinical diagnostic laboratory tests paid under the clinical laboratory fee schedule effective Saturday, January 1, 2011. (A requisition is the actual paperwork, such as a form, which is provided to a clinical diagnostic laboratory that identifies the test or tests to be performed for a patient.)

On Monday, December 20, 2010, CMS informed its contractors of concerns that some physicians, NPPs, and clinical diagnostic laboratories are not aware of or do not understand this policy. As such, CMS indicated that it will focus in the first quarter of 2011 on developing educational and outreach materials to educate those affected by this policy. CMS indicated that once the first quarter educational campaign is fully underway, it will expect requisitions to be signed.

After further input from community, CMS has decided to focus for the remainder of 2011 on changing the regulation that requires signatures on laboratory requisitions because of concerns that physicians, NPPs, and clinical diagnostic laboratories are having difficulty complying with this policy.

March Flu Shot Reminder

It's Not too Late to Give and Get the Flu Vaccine. Take advantage of each office visit and continue to protect your patients against the seasonal flu. Medicare will continue to pay for the seasonal flu vaccine and its administration for all Medicare beneficiaries through the entire flu season. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that patients, health care workers and caregivers be vaccinated against the seasonal flu. Protect your patients. Protect your family. Protect yourself. **Get Your Flu Vaccine - Not the Flu.**

Remember – Influenza vaccine plus its administration are covered Part B benefits. Note that influenza vaccine is NOT a Part D covered drug. For information about Medicare's coverage of the influenza vaccine and its administration, as well as related educational resources for health care professionals and their staff, please visit the following CMS websites:

http://www.cms.gov/MLNProducts/Downloads/Flu_Products.pdf and
<http://www.cms.gov/AdultImmunizations>.

Note: If you have problems accessing any hyperlink in this message, please copy and paste the URL into your Internet browser.

If you know someone who would like to subscribe to a Medicare Fee-For-Service (FFS) provider listserv, go to (http://www.cms.gov/prospmedicarefeesvcpmtgen/downloads/Provider_Listservs.pdf).

If you would like to unsubscribe from a specific provider listserv, please go to (<https://list.nih.gov/cgi-bin/wa.exe?INDEX>) to unsubscribe or to leave the appropriate listserv.

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