
MEMORANDUM

TO: PHYSICIANS LABORATORY CLIENTS

FROM: Kacey Moreland, MBA

SUBJECT: CMS Policy Change

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2011

CMS REQUIRES PROVIDER SIGNATURES ON LAB REQUISITIONS

CMS will begin requiring a physician's or non-physician practitioner (NPP) signature on requisitions for diagnostic laboratory tests. However, the new policy does not require providers to use a requisition to request lab services. "An order may be delivered via any of the following forms of communication:

- A written document signed by the treating physician/practitioner, which is hand delivered, mailed or faxed to the testing facility.
- A telephone call by the treating physician/practitioner or his or her office to the testing facility.
- Electronic mail, or other electronic means, by the treating physician/practitioner or his or her office to the testing facility.

If the order is communicated via telephone, both the treating physician/practitioner, or his or her office, and the testing facility must document the telephone call in their respective copies of the beneficiary's medical records" (Washington G2 National Intelligence Report, Nov 2010, p. 6).

As of January 1, 2011, Physicians Laboratory will require provider's signatures on all clinical and anatomic requisitions received. If a signature is not present, the office will be notified and the requisition will be returned in order to obtain the provider's signature.

(Note: This only applies to instances in which testing is billed to insurance. Orders that are billed directly to a client or patient do not apply).

Physicians Laboratory understands the difficulties that this new regulation may cause your facility and will make every effort to assist you during this transition. Additionally, due to the time critical nature of laboratory testing, it is important to note that Physicians Laboratory will not delay testing due to the absence of a signature. However, we will require a signature prior to submitting the claim to insurance.

If you have questions, please contact Kacey Moreland at 402-731-4145 or 1-800-642-1117.