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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** PHYSICIANS LABORATORY CLIENTS

**FROM:** Kacey Moreland, MBA

**SUBJECT:** CMS Policy Change

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### CMS Delays Physician's Signature Requirement

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced on Tuesday, December 21, 2010 that the provider's signature requirement on laboratory requisitions has been delayed for the first quarter of 2011. The following statement was posted on the CMS website:

In the November 29, 2010 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule final rule, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services finalized its proposed policy to require a physician's or qualified nonphysician practitioner's (NPP) signature on requisitions for clinical diagnostic laboratory tests paid under the clinical laboratory fee schedule effective 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.

Although many physicians, NPPs, and clinical diagnostic laboratories may be aware of, and are able to comply with, this policy, CMS is concerned that some physicians, NPPs, and clinical diagnostic laboratories are not aware of, or do not understand, this policy. As such, CMS will focus in the first calendar quarter of 2011 on developing educational and outreach materials to educate those affected by this policy. As they become available, we will post this information on our website and use other channels we have to communicate with providers to ensure this information is widely distributed. Once our first quarter of 2011 educational campaign is fully underway, CMS will expect requisitions to be signed.

[\(http://www.cms.gov/ClinicalLabFeeSched/\)](http://www.cms.gov/ClinicalLabFeeSched/)

Physicians Laboratory will continue to monitor the activity surrounding this regulation and provide our clients with additional information as it becomes available.

Please contact Kacey Moreland (800)642-1117 with any questions.