



UPDATE!
PHYSICIAN SIGNATURES ON REQUISITIONS FOR CLINICAL
DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY TESTS

In the previous newsletter we informed you that Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) was going 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 April 1, 2011. There was a great deal of concern expressed to CMS and to legislators in Washington, D.C., regarding the burden this regulation would place on providers. As a result, CMS has now indicated that the regulation will not go into effect April 1, 2011, for clinical laboratory.

You will soon be receiving revised requisitions for both PMS and NLL (anatomic, cytology, clinical) which do have a place for the physician signature. The signature on clinical and Pap requisitions is optional at this time. However, CMS has made it clear that the requirement for a physician signature on anatomic testing has been in place long term. At this point we are expecting that the physician signature on anatomic test orders will either be present on the requisition or that the signature can be found in the patient record.

Please contact your account representative if there are questions. Thank you for helping us stay in compliance with all the CMS regulations.