



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 20, 2012

Contact: Mark S. Birenbaum, Ph.D., Administrator
Email: nila@nila-usa.com
Telephone: (314)241-1445
Fax: (314)241-1449
Web: www.nila-usa.com

Community Laboratories Needed to Press Offensive Against Laboratory Fee Schedule Cuts

Washington D.C. – In an effort to ensure that policymakers understand the implications of recent decisions to cut Medicare laboratory fees, the National Independent Laboratory Association (NILA) has commissioned the George Washington University to conduct a confidential independent survey of the community laboratory industry. The survey will highlight the niche role of independent community laboratories: how community laboratories work, who they service, and the importance of their services to the health care of seniors. NILA is calling on all independent community and regional laboratories to partner with NILA in this effort.

In meetings with Congressional offices and the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC), NILA has learned that there is a tremendous lack of understanding about the unique role that community laboratories play in the health care system. Policymakers do not understand that small and mid-sized community laboratories provide the majority of services to seniors who reside in long term care. They don't distinguish community laboratories from large national laboratories, and they falsely assume community clinical laboratories can absorb these cuts and continue to provide care to the Medicare population.

NILA worked closely with George Washington University to frame a survey that will assess the impact that Medicare cuts have on community laboratories and the patients they serve. The survey was circulated on July 18, 2012, with a response deadline in early August.

MORE

July 20, 2012

Page Two

The timing of the survey is critical. For independent community laboratories, the accumulation of reduced payments from health reform, the 2012 physician pay cut delay, and anticipated cuts from sequestration cannot be absorbed. The threat of additional cuts from another physician pay fix by the end of 2012, and offsets Congress must find for other Medicare extenders, threatens the continued existence of community clinical laboratories.

NILA believes that it is up to community clinical laboratories to demonstrate the real impact that additional Medicare cuts will have on them and the patients they serve.

But NILA cannot effectively paint a picture of the industry without a significant response from regional and community laboratories across the country. If you work in a community clinical laboratory, please do your part and participate in the survey. To find out what you can do, contact the NILA office by telephone: (314)241-1445, email: nila@nila-usa.com, or fax: (314)241-1449.

#

The National Independent Laboratory Association (NILA) represents regional and community independent clinical laboratories throughout the United States. NILA provides a platform for senior laboratory executives to share technical and business expertise and to focus on legislative and regulatory issues facing the laboratory industry.