

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850

JSM/TDL-11258, 03-28-11

MEMORANDUM

DATE: **March 31, 2011**

FROM: Acting Director, Hospital and Ambulatory Policy Group
 Center for Medicare

 Director, Medicare Contractor Management Group
 Center for Medicare

SUBJECT: Signature on Requisitions for Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory Tests

TO: All Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs), Carriers, Durable Medical
 Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractors (DME MACs),
 and Part A and Part B Medicare Administrative Contractors
 (A/B MACs)

In the 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 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 would 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 was fully underway, it would expect requisitions to be signed. After further input from the community, CMS remains concerned that physicians, NPPs, and clinical diagnostic laboratories are having difficulty complying with this policy. For this reason, CMS is instructing its Medicare contractors not to enforce the requirement to have a physician or NPP signature on requisitions for clinical diagnostic laboratory tests paid under the clinical laboratory fee schedule.