



## Annual Physician Notification Letter

December 2017

Metropolitan Medical Laboratory, PLC has established, developed and abides by a formal Laboratory Compliance Program in alignment with our mission to provide the highest quality of laboratory services to our community. The efforts of our Compliance Program will focus on compliance with federal, state and local laws in addition to maintaining our strong foundation of corporate integrity. We publish and communicate this annual notification to physicians regarding diagnostic test ordering procedures.

- Physicians and other health care providers should order only those tests they believe are medically necessary for the diagnosis, treatment and therapy of their patient.
- Organ and disease panels should be used only when all components are medically necessary.
- Metropolitan Medical Laboratory does not encourage the development of non-Medicare personal panels, but, if you use one, every test must be medically necessary.
- A numerical diagnosis code (ICD-10-CM) - and not simply a narrative description – must be provided for each test ordered.
- The laboratory will not knowingly bill Medicare for tests that are not covered, reasonable or necessary.
- The Office of Inspector General takes the position that an individual who knowingly causes a false claim to be submitted may be subject to sanctions or remedies available under civil, criminal and administrative law.
- The requesting facility must be aware of Local Coverage Determinations (LCD) and National Coverage Determinations (NCD). Further information for these is available at [www.cms.gov](http://www.cms.gov).
- The ordering physician is responsible for ensuring that requested lab procedures are medically necessary under the federal guidelines in order to bill Medicare. The Medicare program will allow the laboratory to bill the patient for non-covered services only if an Advance Beneficiary Notification (ABN) form has been completed and signed by the patient. Under these circumstances, an ABN form must be submitted with the specimen. To obtain ABN forms or to receive instruction regarding the use of the ABN form, contact the Metropolitan Medical Laboratory Billing Department at (563) 324-0471, extension 4050.
- Medicare Laboratory fee schedule is available on the following web site address: <http://www.cms.gov/apps/ama/license.asp?file=/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/ClinicalLabFeeSched/Downloads/17CLAB.zip>.  
Medicaid reimbursement will be equal to or less than Medicare reimbursement.

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