



February 2019

Annual Physician Notification Letter

As a participant in federally funded health care programs, the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the Penn State Health, Milton S. Hershey Medical Center provides annual notification to physicians on compliance issues pertaining to:

- Medical Necessity
- Organ and Disease Related Panels
- Specimen Collection and Handling (test ordering)
- Medicare Laboratory Fee Schedule
- Contact Information for Clinical Consultation.

Medical Necessity

Physicians should only order those tests that they believe are medically necessary for the diagnosis, treatment and therapy of their patient. In order to bill Medicare, the ordering physician is responsible for ensuring that the requested lab tests are medically necessary by federal guidelines. For a list of tests for which Medicare has developed specific National Coverage Determinations (NCD) and Medicare contractor Local Coverage Determinations (LCD), reference the “NCD/LCD 2018 Listing” under Documents at <https://infonet.pennstatehershey.net/web/pathology-laboratory-medicine/resources>.

Diagnoses not listed on the NCD list are considered non-covered and the patient may be responsible for payment. The Medicare program will allow the laboratory to bill the patient for non-covered services only if an Advance Beneficiary Notification (ABN) form is completed and signed by the patient. The ABN form should be submitted with the specimen. Medicare ABN forms are located at <https://infonet.pennstatehershey.net/web/revenue-cycle/insurance/forms>. Failure to provide a valid, signed ABN form when necessary will result in loss of payment to the hospital.

Organ and Disease Related Panels

Organ and disease panels should only be ordered and billed when all components are medically necessary. A diagnosis using the appropriate version of ICD-CM must be provided for each test ordered.

Specimen Collection and Handling (test ordering)

Specific instructions for the proper collection and handling of specimens are available under “Pathology - Test Catalog” at <https://hmc.pennstatehealth.org/health-care-services/pathology/test-catalog>.

Medicare Laboratory Fee Schedule

The Clinical Diagnostic Lab Fee Schedule 2018 is available under Documents at <https://inonet.pennstatehershey.net/web/pathology-laboratory-medicine/resources>. Medicaid reimbursement will be equal to or less than the amount of Medicare reimbursement.

Clinical Consultant/Medical Director Support

To assist with laboratory test questions, the following Medical Directors and their area of expertise are listed below.

Cytopathology: Catherine Abendroth, M.D. (717)531-1670

Blood Bank/Transfusion Medicine: Melissa George, D.O. (717)531-4627, Ronald Domen, M.D. (717)531-5116

Clinical Chemistry and Urinalysis: Yusheng Zhu, M.D. (717)531-5123

Hematology and Coagulation: Olajumoke Oladipo, M.D. (717)531-3564

Hematopathology: Michael Bayerl, M.D. (717)531-1671

Histocompatibility: Hiroko Shike, M.D. (717)531-5117

Immunohistochemistry: Francesca Ruggiero, M.D. (717)531-7741

Microbiology: David Craft, Ph.D., D (ABMM) (717)531-5113

Molecular Diagnostics: Michael Creer, M.D. (717)531-8115

Surgical Pathology and Histology: Henry S. Crist, M.D. (717)531-3521

Virology: Wallace Greene, Ph.D., D (ABMM) (717)531-5121

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Approved by:

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