



University of Iowa Diagnostic Laboratories

Department of Pathology
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RE: Annual Physician Notification Letter

As a participant in federally funded health care programs, the University of Iowa Health Care, Department of Pathology developed and abides by a Laboratory Compliance Plan, as required by the Office of Inspector General (OIG), U.S. Department of Justice. The Laboratory Compliance Plan sets forth a requirement for annual notification to physicians regarding the ordering of diagnostic test procedures.

This document constitutes notification to you, the ordering physician or healthcare provider, of the following:

- Physicians and other health care providers should only order those tests they believe are medically necessary for the diagnosis, treatment, and therapy of their patient.
- All test panels offered by the University of Iowa Diagnostic Laboratories (UIDL) are Medicare designated panels. Custom panels are not available or encouraged.
- Organ and disease panels should only be used when all components are medically necessary. A diagnosis using the appropriate version of ICD-10 must be provided for each test ordered.
- The laboratory will not knowingly bill Medicare for tests that are not covered, reasonable or necessary.
- The OIG 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) (<https://www.wpsgha.com/>).
- The ordering physician is responsible for ensuring that lab procedures requested are medically necessary by federal guidelines 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 is completed and signed by the patient. Under these circumstances, an ABN form must be submitted with the specimen. Failure to provide a valid, signed ABN form will result in charges to your practice if our initial claim is denied by Medicare. To acquire ABN forms or to receive instruction as to the use of the ABN form, contact the UIDL billing department at (866) 844-2522; uidlreferencebilling@healthcare.uiowa.edu.
- Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) Codes and information on available services are provided in the UIDL Test Directory Handbook (https://www.healthcare.uiowa.edu/path_handbook/rindex.html) as a convenience to our clients.
- Medicare Laboratory fee schedule is available at (<https://www.cms.hhs.gov/ClinicalLabFeeSched>). Medicaid reimbursement will be equal to or less than Medicare reimbursement.

For more information regarding this communication, please contact the UIDL at (866) 844-2522; UIDL-Billing@uiowa.edu. Consultants for areas of expertise are listed below:

Anatomic Pathology: Megan Samuelson, MD (319-353-6796)
Clinical Chemistry: Matthew Krasowski, MD, PhD (319-384-9380)
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Microbiology: Bradley Ford, MD, PhD (319-356-2990)
Molecular Pathology: Deqin Ma, MD, PhD (319-384-5700)
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