

## Annual Medicare Notice to Physicians and Practitioners 2019

**St. Luke's Hospital Laboratory** is committed to being compliant with all federal and state laws and program requirements for Medicare, Medicaid and private health care plans. St. Luke's Hospital Laboratory also participates in an active compliance plan that follows hospital compliance policies and procedures. All ordering physicians need to be fully informed and aware of the specific activities associated with the Office of Inspector General Compliance program and requirements for clinical laboratories. These requirements include but are not limited to the following:

**Medical Necessity**-Medicare will reimburse only for tests that are deemed medically necessary. These tests are defined as being reasonable and necessary to treat and diagnose an individual patient. Medicare may not pay for non-FDA-approved tests or tests that are identified as "research only." Medicare contractors have, however, issued coverage decisions for molecular and genetic tests. A complete Medicare Coverage Database is available on the CMS website: [www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/overview-and-quicksearch.aspx](http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/overview-and-quicksearch.aspx) .

**Screening Tests**-that are billed to Medicare will be denied for reimbursement, with a few cited exceptions. Coverage and diagnosis codes are available using the CMS'S Quick Reference Information and Prevention Services at [www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prevention/PreventionGenInfo/Downloads/MPS\\_QuickReferenceChart\\_1.pdf](http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prevention/PreventionGenInfo/Downloads/MPS_QuickReferenceChart_1.pdf) .

**Physician Responsibility to Provide Diagnosis Information**-A provision in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 mandates that physicians ordering diagnostic tests provide the supplier with either a diagnosis or other medical information required in order for Medicare payment to be made to the supplier. Medicare payment is facilitated when the most complete and detailed diagnosis information is provided.

**Organ/Disease Panels and Custom Panels**-If all the tests present in a multi-test panel are not medically necessary, a physician is expected to order a more appropriate panel or only the individual tests necessary to treat a patient.

**Reflex Test**-Reflex testing is automatically performed when initial results are outside normal parameters and indicate that another related test is medically appropriate. The St. Luke's Hospital Laboratory

Medical Director and the St. Luke's Hospital Medical Executive Committee are responsible for determining the tests that meet the criteria for reflex testing.

**Ambiguous Orders**-Claims for reimbursement are submitted only for tests that have been both ordered and performed. If the laboratory receives a specimen without a test order or an ambiguous order subject to multiple interpretations, the ordering physician will be contacted for clarification as to which tests are to be performed before testing is conducted or a reimbursement claim is submitted.

**Physician Signature**-While Medicare does not require the signature of the ordering physician on the laboratory service requisition, St. Luke's Hospital Laboratory prefers that laboratory test requisitions have either the handwritten or electronic signature of the ordering physician. The laboratory requisition must be a direct reflection of what the physician has authenticated in the patient's medical record.

**Advanced Beneficiary Notice**-Medicare rules prohibit the laboratory from billing the patient for laboratory tests for which the Diagnosis/ICD-10 code(s) indicated by a provider do not support "medical necessity" unless an Advanced Beneficiary Notice (ABN) has been properly obtained and signed by the patient.

**Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule**-The 2019 Medicare Fee Schedule for clinical laboratory use is available on the CMS website: [www.cms.gov/FeeScheduleGenInfo/](http://www.cms.gov/FeeScheduleGenInfo/)

**Medicare/Medicaid Reimbursement**-The Medicaid reimbursement amount will be equal to or less than the amount of Medicare reimbursement. St. Luke's Hospital Laboratory bills Medicare and Medicaid at or below its third party prices and is reimbursed the lesser of either the price it bills or the local Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) fee schedule reimbursement.

**St. Luke's Hospital Laboratory Specimen Collection Manual/Test Catalog**-The St. Luke's Hospital Laboratory Specimen Collection Manual (Test Catalog) contains test ordering, collection and turn-around-time information. It can be located on the St. Luke's Hospital web site: [www.stlukeshospital.com](http://www.stlukeshospital.com)

**Safety First**-St. Luke's Hospital Laboratory is dedicated to maintaining patient safety. Patient safety is achieved in the laboratory through proper identification of patient specimens. Patient specimens that are not completely and accurately labeled with patient full name, DOB, collection date, collection time and specimen source (for non-blood specimens) may be rejected.

**Web Site**-See the St. Luke's hospital website for information about draw site locations, accreditation, compliance and etc.

**Customer Service**-St. Luke's hospital Laboratory customer service is available 24/7 at (419) 893-5947.

**Clinical Consultation**- A pathologist is available for clinical consultation 24 hours a day and Seven days a week. The pathologist may be contacted by telephone (419) 893-5947.