

To: All Physicians Ordering Tests from Tift Regional Medical Center Laboratory

From: Jessica W. Beier, M.D., F.C.A.P., Medical Director

Re: Annual Notification of OIG Compliance

Date: January, 2015

As part of the TRMC Laboratory's OIG compliance, please remember when ordering laboratory tests that are billed to Medicare/Medicaid or other federally funded programs, the following requirements apply:

- Only tests that are medically necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of the patient should be ordered. Medicare does not pay for screening tests except for certain specifically approved procedures and may not pay for non-FDA approved tests or those tests considered experimental.
- If there is reason to believe that Medicare will not pay for a test, the patient should be informed. The patient should then sign an Advanced Beneficiary Notice (ABN) to indicate that he/she is responsible for the cost of the test if Medicare denies payment.
- The ordering physician must provide an ICD-9 (or ICD-10 if applicable) diagnosis code and a narrative description, if required by the fiscal intermediary or carrier.
- Organ or disease-related panels should be billed only when all components of the panel are medically necessary.
- Medicare National and Local Medical Review Policies exist for certain lab tests. This information is available on line at: www.CAHABAGBA.com. Medicaid reimbursement will be equal to or less than the amount of Medicare reimbursement.
- A current Medicare lab fee schedule by CPT code is available upon request from the TRHS Billing Office.
- Reflex testing criteria and order interpretations along with associated billable tests are listed under the separate heading "Reflex Testing/Order Interpretations"
- Clinical laboratory consultation is available at (229) 353-7535, option 3.

Material contained in this yearly notification is current as of the date of publication and may be subject to change without notice.

The OIG believes that a physician who orders medically unnecessary tests and knowingly causes a false claim to be submitted may be subject to sanctions or remedies available under criminal or administrative law.

