

MEDICARE UPDATE

Date: July 23, 2008

To: Licensed Medicare Clients

Re: Revised ABN (Advanced Beneficiary Notice)

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued a revised ABN form (CMS-R-131). Revisions were made to clarify instructions, simplify use, and include policy changes. The revised ABN replaces the existing ABN-G (Form CMS-R-131G), ABN-L (Form CMS-R-131L), and NEMB (Form CMS-20007), and may be used for all situations where Medicare payment is expected to be denied.

All providers must begin using the revised ABN (enclosed) no later than September 1, 2008. Please discard all outdated ABN forms before this deadline. You may order additional copies of the new ABN form by calling EMH Client Services at 866-941-4542.

For clients who use LabValet electronic test ordering, the revised ABN will download to your system and replace the current version on July 30, 2008.

To assist you with the ABN process, we provide our clients with a Medicare Guidebook containing information about 40 Medicare limited coverage tests. If you did not receive your guidebook or would like additional copies, call Client Services at 866-941-4542.

Completing an ABN

1. The ABN is a notice given to beneficiaries to convey that Medicare is not likely to provide coverage in specific cases (see Medicare Guidebook).
2. The healthcare provider completes the first half of the ABN with patient name, date of service, name of the test(s), reason why coverage is not expected, and estimated cost of the service(s).
3. The ABN is then verbally reviewed with the beneficiary before providing the service(s). Any questions raised should be answered before the beneficiary completes the form.
4. The beneficiary completes the form by choosing an option, then signing and dating the form.
5. A copy of the signed ABN is given to the beneficiary, and the original is attached to the test order. The signed ABN must accompany the specimens and test order to the laboratory.

For more information about ABN forms, visit the CMS website at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/BNI/>. If you have questions regarding this notice, please contact Julie Hayes, Marketing Services Coordinator by phone at 630-758-5350 or email at jxhayes@emhc.org.