

INFORMANT

APRIL 2011

Diablo Medical Billing, Inc.



HIPAA COMPLIANCE—IT'S A MUST

In our continuing efforts to be HIPAA compliant, we are trying to institute a policy for discussing bills with spouses. As you are aware, without written consent from the patient, we cannot legally discuss a bill with a patient's spouse. This often makes our job a challenge, as the spouse is the one writing the check and often just wants clarification on what they are paying for. We are tossing around options to make this easy for your staff, and one of the ideas we came up with was to create a simple form for the patient to sign, indicating WHO we can speak to about their bills. We can then log this information into Clinix and note the account, so we always know when it is OK to discuss bills with someone other than the patient. Stay tuned for more details!



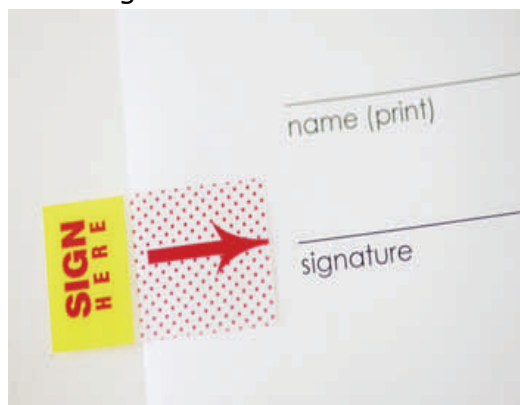
Jurisdiction 1 Part B

SIGNATURE ON REQUISITION FOR CLINICAL DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY TESTS



In the Monday, November 29, 2010, Medicare Physician Fee Schedule final rule, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) finalized its proposed policy to require a physician's or qualified non-physician practitioner's (NPP) signature on requisitions for clinical diagnostic laboratory tests paid under the clinical laboratory fee schedule effective Saturday, January 1, 2011. A requisition is the actual paperwork, such as a form, which is provided to a clinical diagnostic laboratory that identifies the test or tests to be performed for a patient.

On Monday, December 20, 2010, CMS informed its contractors of concerns that some physicians, NPPs and clinical diagnostic laboratories are not aware of or do not understand this policy. As such, CMS indicated that it will focus in the first quarter of 2011 on developing educational and outreach materials to educate those affected by this policy. CMS indicated that once the first quarter educational campaign is fully underway, it will expect requisitions to be signed.



After further input from community, CMS has decided to focus for the remainder of 2011 on changing the regulation that requires signatures on laboratory requisitions because of concerns that physicians, NPPs and clinical diagnostic laboratories are having difficulty complying with this policy.

JSM/TDL 11258

last updated on 04/01/2011