

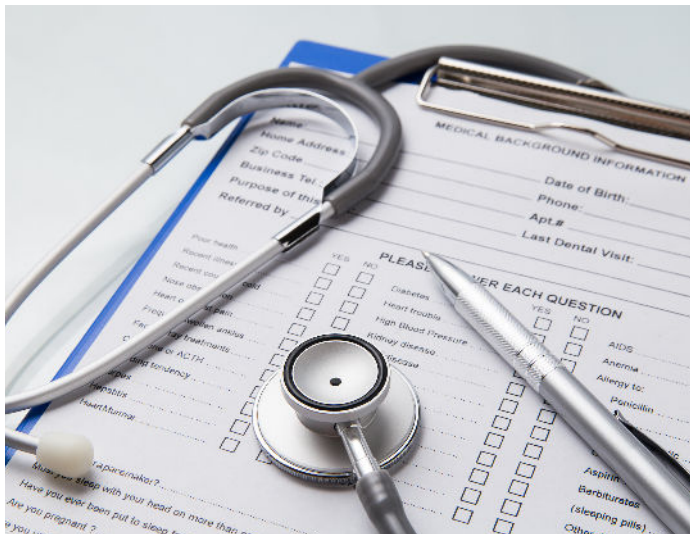
# NEWSLETTER

QUARTER 3 COMPLIANCE NEWSLETTER

MED-LAKE LABORATORY

## LET'S CELEBRATE!

MED-LAKE IS EXTREMELY PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE OF COLLEGE OF AMERICAN PATHOLOGIST (CAP) HAS AWARDED ACCREDITATION TO MED-LAKE LABORATORY BASED ON RESULTS OF RECENT ON-SITE INSPECTION. MED-LAKE LABORATORY IS NOW ONE OF MORE THAN 8,000 CAP-ACCREDITED FACILITIES WORLDWIDE.



## MEDICAL NECESSITY

SECTION 1862(A)(1)(A) OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT STATES THAT MEDICARE WILL NOT COVER SERVICES THAT "ARE NOT REASONABLE AND NECESSARY FOR THE DIAGNOSIS OR TREATMENT OF ILLNESS OR INJURY OR TO IMPROVE THE FUNCTIONING OF A MALFORMED BODY MEMBER." CLAIMS SUBMITTED TO MEDICARE AND PRIVATE PAYERS MUST MEET THE MEDICAL NECESSITY REQUIREMENTS DEFINED BY EACH PAYER. THOUGH THE DEFINITION OF MEDICAL NECESSITY MAY HAVE DIFFERENCES FROM PAYER TO PAYER, THE MAIN IDEA IS THE SAME.

PAYMENT FOR TESTING MAY BE DENIED, EVEN IF A PROVIDER DEEMS IT NECESSARY, IF DOCUMENTATION AND CODING DOES NOT DEEM THE TEST MEDICALLY NECESSARY. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PROVIDER IS TO ENSURE THAT SUBMITTED CLAIMS HAVE PROPER DOCUMENTATION FOR MEDICAL NECESSITY. A PROVIDER SHOULD ONLY ORDER LABORATORY TESTS THAT ARE REASONABLE AND MEDICALLY NECESSARY FOR THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF THE PATIENT.

## **BREAKING NEWS**

### WE ARE IN NETWORK!

INSURANCE CONTRACTS PLAY A LARGE ROLE IN THE SATISFACTION OF YOUR PATIENTS' EXPERIENCE. MED-LAKE IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE WE ARE NOW IN NETWORK NATION-WIDE WITH UNITED HEALTH CARE. HAVING THIS CONTRACT ALLOWS US TO PROVIDE BETTER QUALITY CARE FOR YOUR PATIENTS' NEEDS.

WE ARE CONTINUOUSLY WORKING TO EXPAND OUR INSURANCE COVERAGE AND WILL BE RELEASING NEW COVERAGE CONTRACTS SOON!

### INDIVIDUALIZED TESTING

PHYSICIANS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR INDIVIDUALIZING DRUG TEST ORDERS TO EACH PATIENT AND THE CLINICAL LABORATORY MUST DO ITS PART TO FACILITATE PHYSICIAN CHOICE AND INDIVIDUALIZED TEST ORDERS. MOST PAYORS "NON-COVER" THE PHYSICIAN'S USE OF A SINGLE CUSTOM TEST PANEL/PROFILE FOR ALL PATIENTS. SUCH ORDERS ARE OFTEN DEFINED AS "BLANKET ORDERS" OR "ROUTINE STANDING ORDERS". MANY PAYORS TAKE THE POSITION THAT A PHYSICIAN'S USE OF A SINGLE CUSTOM PROFILE DOES NOT REFLECT PROPER INDIVIDUALIZATION OF TESTING NEEDS BASED ON INDIVIDUAL PATIENT HISTORY AND PAST DRUG TEST RESULTS.

**HOW DO THESE THREE TOPICS WORK TOGETHER? WHEN PROVIDERS ORDER LABORATORY TESTING, THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING THE MEDICAL NECESSITY OF EACH TEST AND PROVIDING INDIVIDUALIZED PATIENT CARE. BY MED-LAKE HAVING MORE IN NETWORK INSURANCE COVERAGE, WE CAN PROVIDE BETTER CARE FOR YOUR PATIENTS' NEEDS.**