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SPECIAL BULLETIN #5

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Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

Requirement for Signature on requisitions for clinical diagnostic test orders retracted.

On June 31, CMS issued a proposed rule with request for comment to retract the requirement that requisitions for clinical laboratory services must be signed by a physician or other CMS-approved health care practitioner.

CFR, Vol 76, No 126, page 38344 states in part

II. Provisions of the Proposed Rule

In this proposed rule, we would retract the policy we finalized in the CY 2011 PFS final rule with comment period (75 FR 73483) and reinstate the prior policy that the signature of the physician or NPP is not required on a requisition for Medicare purposes for a clinical diagnostic laboratory test paid under the CLFS. We are proposing this policy based on continued and new concerns noted by stakeholders regarding the practical effect of the finalized policy on beneficiaries, physicians, and NPPs.

While we did not solicit further comments on the signature on requisition issue in the CY 2011 PFS final rule with comment period, we did receive additional feedback from industry stakeholders on the issue after its publication in the **Federal Register**. Industry stakeholders identified many scenarios where it would be difficult to obtain the physician's or NPP's signature on the requisition for clinical diagnostic laboratory tests under the CLFS (Clinical Laboratory fee Schedule). Industry stakeholders asserted that there are many different situations where the physician or NPP would direct staff to prepare requisitions for laboratory tests, but then would be unavailable to provide his or her signature on the requisition.