

**ANNUAL NOTICE TO PHYSICIANS - 2025
Laboratory Services**

Dear Provider:

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) of the Department of Health and Human Services recommends in its laboratory compliance guidance that laboratories send an annual notice to physicians and other providers advising them of the elements of the laboratory's compliance program. This letter is informational only requiring no action, it serves as Southwest General Health Center's annual notice and provides helpful information regarding the ordering and processing of laboratory tests.

This document constitutes notification to you as the healthcare provider, of the following:

- Physicians and other health care providers should only order those tests they believe are medically necessary for the diagnosis, treatment, and therapy of their patient. The ordering clinician is responsible for ensuring that lab procedures requested are medically necessary by federal guidelines to bill Medicare.
- Organ and disease panels should be used when all components are medically necessary. A diagnosis (ICD-10) must be provided for each test ordered.

AMA Approved Organ and Disease Specific Panels

CPT code	Test Name
80048	Basic Metabolic Panel (BASICMETA) – Na, K Cl, CO2, Glu, BUN, Creat, Ca
80051	Electrolyte Panel (ELEC) – Na, K, Cl, CO2
80053	Comprehensive Metabolic Panel (COMPMETA) – Na, K, Cl, CO2, Glu, BUN, Creat, Ca, TP, Alb, T Bili, AP, ALT, AST
80061	Lipid Panel – Cholesterol, Trig, HDL, LDL (Calculated)
80069	Renal Function Panel – BASICMETA with Albumin & Phosphorus
80074	Acute Hepatitis Panel – HEP A (IgM); HEP B Core Antibody, HEP B Surface Ag, HEP C Antibody
80076	Hepatic (Liver) Function Panel – ALP, TP, ALB, ALT, AST, Total and Direct Bilirubin
80081	OB Panel with HIV- CBCWD, HEP B Ag, HIV, Rubella Ab, RPR, ABO, RH, Antibody Screen

Laboratory Requisition

To simplify, we require a completed laboratory requisition using any of the following: Southwest General Physician's Request for Outpatient Lab Services form; Southwest General Health Center Electronic Future Orders form (SGMG physicians); any laboratory requisition or prescription that contains the following information, which is required by Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) regulations:

- The patient's name or other identifier.
- The name and telephone number or other suitable identifiers of the physician (or other authorized under state law) ordering the test.
- The name and CPT code of the test(s) to be performed.
- All of the patient's current ICD-10-CM codes or narrative diagnoses.
- The date, time and source of specimen collection.
- Additional information relevant and necessary to a specific test to assure accurate and timely testing and reporting of results as determined by Southwest General Health Center.
- The signature of the physician or other person authorized to directly order clinical laboratory tests under state law.

Test ordering

- Information for test ordering, Current Procedure Terminology (CPT Codes), reflex testing, and other Laboratory specific services can be found on the Southwest General Health Center’s Intranet/Physician Tab/Laboratory Services Test Directory.
- Hard copies of the Laboratory Services Test Directory are available upon request.
- If there is a 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.
- Clinical laboratory consultation is available with any Staff Pathologist at (440) 816-8856

Reflex Testing

- Reflex Testing is additional testing (with additional cost) that is automatically performed on the basis of the initial results. All procedures that contain a reflexive pathway are identified at the test level in the Laboratory Services Test Directory.
- Reflex tests will be performed as noted unless you specifically opt out of the reflex test by noting this on the original order or requisition.

Medicare Fee Schedule

The Medicare fee schedule is located on the CMS webpage at <http://www.cms.gov/center/clinical.asp>. Scroll down to “IMPORTANT LINKS” click on Clinical Laboratory/Fee Schedule. Medicaid reimbursement is usually equal to or less than the amount of Medicare reimbursement.

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.

We appreciate your support for our Laboratory Compliance Program. If you have any questions or comments regarding the hospital’s Laboratory Compliance Program, please do not hesitate to contact one of us at the numbers listed below.

Sincerely,



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