

****URGENT NOTICE****

TO: All Providers (Except Transportation, Pharmacy and DME Providers)

SUBJECT: Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA)

EFFECTIVE: September 1, 1992

BACKGROUND: On February 28, 1992, federal regulations implementing the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA) were promulgated by the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA). These regulations govern laboratory testing in all settings (independent laboratories, physicians' offices, accredited hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, HMOs, clinics, etc.).

CLIA regulations divide laboratories into three groups based on the sophistication of tests performed. Facilities performing only eight simple tests can apply for a waiver certificate. Facilities that perform moderate complexity or high complexity testing must apply for a Certificate of Registration.

If you have not received a questionnaire from the Health Care Financing Administration for an application to become CLIA certified, please contact the CLIA Hotline at (410) 290-5850.

ACTION: As of September 1, 1992, all facilities or entities that perform clinical laboratory testing must have their CLIA identification number on file with the New Jersey Medicaid program. Reimbursement for laboratory testing performed on or after September 1, 1992, will not be made to any facility without a CLIA identification number. To prevent any delay in reimbursement, please complete the attached form and return it to the following address prior to September 1, 1992.

New Jersey Medicaid Provider Enrollment
Paramax/Unisys
CN 4804
Trenton, New Jersey 08650-4804

Providers should also note that as of September 1, 1992, in order to bill the New Jersey Medicaid program as a reference laboratory (for referred laboratory testing), a provider must become a New Jersey Medicaid provider of service and hold a valid CLIA certificate. It is the initiating entity's responsibility to refer tests to laboratories which are New Jersey Medicaid providers and have a valid CLIA identification number.

New Jersey Medicaid Provider Enrollment, at the above address, can provide information on how a non-provider can enroll as a New Jersey Medicaid provider.

If there are any questions regarding this Newsletter, contact Phyllis Valeri-Bruschini, Laboratory Consultant, at (609) 588-2721.

Attachment