
CHAPTER 27: INDEPENDENT LABORATORIES

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PROVIDER REQUIREMENTS

Providers approved for participation as in independent laboratory in the Louisiana Medicaid Program must be licensed and certified by the appropriate licensing agency and meet Medicare/Medicaid participation requirements for enrollment.

All laboratory testing sites must be a freestanding clinical laboratory certified under the Clinical Laboratory Improvements Act (CLIA). Providers are limited to billing the lab services that they are CLIA-certified to perform. Services that are not certified will not be covered. Providers must notify the Medicaid fiscal intermediary of any changes in their CLIA certification status and the test specialties they have been certified to perform. (See Appendix B for contact information)

Providers must perform the following activities as well as any other specified by the Department of Health and Hospitals:

- Adhere to the conditions of participation outlined in their provider agreements,
- Maintain and retain business and professional records sufficient to document fully and accurately the nature, scope and details of the health care provided.
- Provide all necessary accommodations to meet the needs of persons with semi-ambulatory disabilities, sight and hearing disabilities.

Medicaid of Louisiana reimburses registered independent labs that abide by regulations and/or conditions set by the facilities or physicians from which they are considered independent.

Laboratories maintained by physicians performing diagnostic tests for their own patients are exempt from this policy unless they perform diagnostic tests on referral.

Provider Responsibilities

Recipients' benefits vary depending upon the program in which they are enrolled. Providers are responsible for verifying recipient eligibility each time service is rendered. Medicaid will not pay for services rendered before or after the date of the recipient's eligibility. (See Chapter 1 for additional information on verifying recipient eligibility)

All Medicaid providers, including their staff, contracted staff and volunteers, must comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) privacy requirements.

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Laboratories must maintain copies of the requesting physician's request slip and the test results for a period of at least five years. Records shall be retained in the laboratory in such a manner that permits ready identification and accessibility.

NOTE: An independent lab performing HIV resistance testing must have the patient's history in their records.