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Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory Date of Service (DOS) for Archived Specimens

Key Words

MM4156, CR4156, R800CP, Diagnostic, Laboratory, Tests, Archived, Specimens, DOS, Policy, CR2383, Clinical

Provider Types Affected

Suppliers and providers billing Medicare carriers and/or fiscal intermediaries (FIs) for clinical diagnostic laboratory services

Key Points

- The effective date of the instruction is April 3, 2006.
- The implementation date is April 3, 2006.
- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) published a proposed rule on November 23, 2001 in the Federal Register (66 FR 58792, http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a011123c.htm) that clarified the date of service (DOS) for clinical diagnostic laboratory services, and CR2383 (Transmittal AB-02-134, dated October 4, 2002) was issued but did not define archived specimens.
- CMS has since developed a definition of an archived specimen through its rulemaking process and issued a revised DOS policy in the Federal Register notice dated February 25, 2005 (70 FR 9357, http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a050225c.htm).
- CR4156 implements this revised DOS policy for laboratory tests, and it clarifies what is/ or is not an archived specimen.

- As a general rule, the DOS of a test is the date the specimen was collected, except as shown in the following table:

Specimen Description	Date of Service (DOS)
Specimen collected over a period spanning two calendar days (unless collected from archive)	Date the specimen collection ended
Specimen stored for more than 30 calendar days before testing, (otherwise known as "an archived specimen")	Date the specimen was obtained from storage

Important Links

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM4156.pdf>

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R800CP.pdf>

http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a011123c.html

http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a050225c.html

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/AB02134.pdf>