



**Clinical Laboratory Improvement
Amendments (CLIA):**

Partner Toolkit

Transition to Paperless by March 1, 2026

Overview

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is improving the [Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments \(CLIA\)](#) program by switching to electronic fee coupons and CLIA certificates. **With this switch, we're moving to a completely electronic system. By March 1, 2026,** laboratories and providers that perform laboratory testing **must** switch to email notifications to start receiving electronic CLIA fee coupons and certificates.

After this date, CMS will no longer send through the mail:

- Paper fee coupons
- Paper certificates

State Agencies, Accreditation Organizations, providers and professional organizations play an important role in educating laboratory and provider staff about the upcoming transition to paperless and encouraging action.

This partner toolkit provides ready-to-use messaging for your outreach to laboratories and providers, along with downloadable resources you can use to disseminate key information and answer any questions.

Questions about this toolkit can be directed to LabExcellence@cms.hhs.gov.

Fact Sheet/Infographic

Changes to CLIA Fees & Certificates

What's Changing with CLIA Fees & Certificates

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is improving the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) program by switching to electronic fee coupons and CLIA certificates. Laboratories have until March 1, 2026, to switch to CMS email notifications and begin receiving electronic CLIA fee coupons and certificates. With this switch, CMS is moving to a completely electronic system. After this date, paper fee coupons and CLIA certificates will no longer be available.

Benefits to Going Paperless

When your laboratory switches to electronic notifications, you will receive:

- **Email notifications from CMS:** including important CLIA updates.
- **Electronic Fee Coupons*:** your laboratory will no longer receive paper coupons. In addition, you can pay your CLIA certification fees via Pay.gov, a secure online platform. Your payment gets processed overnight—a faster way to pay!
- **Electronic CLIA Certificates*:** no need to wait for it to come in the mail. Certificates will be sent to your laboratory's email address.

**This does not apply to CLIA exempt states or state licensure.*

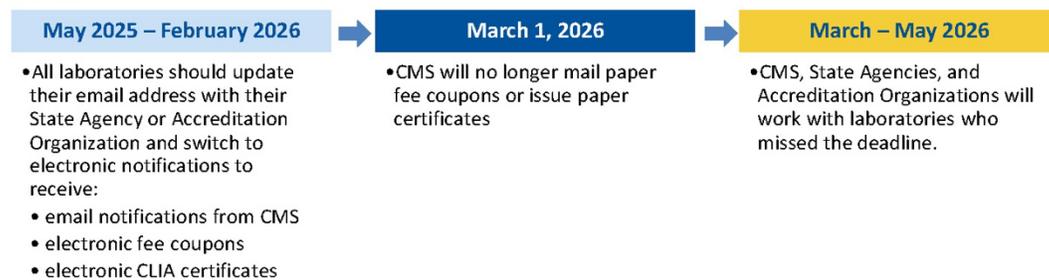
How to Switch

To switch to electronic notifications or to update your email address, you must:

- Provide written notification to your State Agency by email. Include your laboratory name, laboratory director or owner's name, CLIA number, director or designee's signature to help your State Agency make the switch.
-OR-
- Contact your Accreditation Organization, if you're an accredited laboratory. They can now add or update email addresses for the laboratories they survey.
-OR-
- Fill out the [CMS-116 application form](#). To switch, check the box, "Receive notifications including electronic certificates via email."

Tip: Make sure CMS has your laboratory's **most up-to-date email address** on file so you get important CLIA updates and information. CMS recommends using a business email address, or one that many staffers can access and use.

Timeline



Resources

- Reach out to your [State Agency](#) or Accrediting Organization for help switching to paperless
- [Fact sheet](#) on paying CLIA fees on [Pay.gov](#)
- Visit [CMS.gov](#) to learn more



Changes to CLIA Fees & Certificates

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is improving the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) program by switching to electronic fee coupons and CLIA certificates.

Laboratories have until **March 1, 2026**, to receive:

- Email notifications from CMS
- Electronic Fee Coupons
- Electronic CLIA certificates

Certificates will be sent to your laboratory's email address.

Timeline

-  **May 2025 – February 2026**
All laboratories should update their email address with their State Agency or Accreditation Organization
-  **March 1, 2026**
CMS will no longer mail paper fee coupons or issue paper certificates
-  **March – May 2026**
CMS, State Agencies, and Accreditation Organizations will work with laboratories who missed the deadline



Scan the QR code or reach out to your [State Agency](#) or Accreditation Organization for assistance.



Frequently Asked Questions

What's Changing with CLIA Fees & Certificates

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is improving the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) program by switching to electronic fee coupons and CLIA certificates. **By March 1, 2026**, laboratories must switch to CMS email notifications to start receiving electronic CLIA fee coupons and certificates. After this date, paper fee coupons and CLIA certificates will no longer be available. With this switch, CMS is moving to a completely electronic system. For more information, visit [Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments \(CLIA\)](#).

What are the Benefits to Going Paperless

When your laboratory switches to email notifications from CMS, you'll get:

- **Electronic Fee Coupons:** no longer paper coupons. In addition, you can pay your CLIA certification fees via [Pay.gov](#), a secure online platform. Your payment gets processed overnight—a faster way to pay!
- **Electronic CLIA Certificates:** no need to wait for them to come in the mail. Certificates will be sent to your laboratory's email address.

What Does My Laboratory Need to Do?

Make sure CMS has your laboratory's most up-to-date email address on file so you get important updates and information. CMS recommends you use a business email address or one that many staffers can access and use.

To switch to electronic notifications or update your email address, you must:

- Provide written notification to your [State Agency](#) by email. Include your laboratory name, laboratory director or owner's name, CLIA number, director or designee's signature to help your State Agency make the switch.

-OR-

- Contact your Accreditation Organization, if you're an accredited laboratory. They can now add or update email addresses for the laboratories they survey.

-OR-

- Fill out the [CMS-116 application form](#). To switch, check the box, "Receive notifications including electronic certificates via email."

How Does My Laboratory Use Pay.gov?

Pay.gov is a secure platform hosted by the Treasury Department. To pay fees online:

1. Go to [Pay.gov](#)
2. Type "CLIA" in the search box in the upper-right corner.
3. Enter the CLIA ID number included in your invoice.

Pay.gov accepts bank account (ACH) or debit or credit cards for online payments.

When Does My Laboratory Need to Go Paperless?

Laboratories have until March 1, 2026 to switch to email notifications and begin receiving electronic fee coupons and CLIA certificates.

After this date, CMS will no longer mail paper fee coupons or paper CLIA certificates.

Will My Laboratory Still Be Able to Use Paper Coupons?

Paper coupons and CLIA certificates will still be available before the March 1, 2026 deadline. After that, all fee coupons and CLIA certificates will be electronic.

What If My Laboratory Misses the Deadline for Switching to Email Notifications?

Your laboratory should contact your [State Agency](#) or Accreditation Organization for assistance.

Website & E-Communications

Use and adapt the language below for your website or any other member communications (e.g. e-blast, newsletter) to tell members of your organization about the upcoming transition.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is improving the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) program by switching to electronic fee coupons and CLIA certificates. To take full advantage of these improvements, laboratories and providers that perform laboratory testing have **until March 1, 2026**, to switch to CMS email notifications and begin receiving electronic CLIA fee coupons and certificates. **With this switch, CMS is moving to a completely electronic system. After this date, paper fee coupons and paper CLIA certificates will no longer be available.**

By switching, your laboratory will get:

- **Email notifications** from CMS
- **Electronic fee coupons***
- **Your CLIA certificate faster**— no more waiting for it to come in the mail*

**This does not apply to CLIA-exempt states or state licensure.*

To switch to electronic notifications, you must:

- Provide written notification to your [State Agency](#) by email. Include your laboratory name, laboratory director or owner's name, CLIA number, director or designee's signature to help your State Agency make the switch.

-OR-

- Contact your Accreditation Organization, if you're an accredited laboratory. They can now add or update email addresses for the laboratories they survey.

-OR-

- Fill out the [CMS-116 application form](#). To switch to electronic notifications, check the box, "Receive notifications including electronic certificates via email."

For State Agency Use: Reach out to [insert Point of Contact] to switch to paperless. For more details, visit [Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments \(CLIA\)](#).

For Other Stakeholder Use: Reach out to your [State Agency](#) or Accreditation Organization for assistance. For more details, visit [Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments \(CLIA\)](#).

Sample Social Media Posts & Graphics

Use and customize these pre-written posts and graphics to share information about the upcoming transition to paperless fee coupons and CLIA certificates through your social media or other digital platforms.

Social Post #1

Graphic Copy: Attention Laboratories!

Post Copy: Starting March 2026, paper fee coupons and CLIA certificates won't be available. Learn more about opting in to go paperless. [Link to CLIA page]



Social Post #2

Graphic Copy: Make the switch to paperless by March 2026!

Post Copy: For a faster, easier way to pay your CLIA certification fees and get your certificate, switch today. Talk to your State Agency or Accreditation Organization to make the switch to electronic notification.



Social Post #3

Graphic Copy: Reminder Laboratories!

Post Copy: Beginning March 1, 2026, CMS will no longer mail paper fee coupons or paper CLIA certificates. Contact your State Agency or Accreditation Organization to get your lab ready.

