



CONSOLIDATED LABORATORY SERVICES

"Continued Commitment to Quality and Service"

Special Note Regarding Medicare Changes Retroactive to August 1, 2000

The fourth quarter 2003 Medicare update has added the General Health Panel (CPT code 80050) to the list of non-covered procedures. This panel consists of a Comprehensive Metabolic Panel (CPT code 80053), CBC (CPT code 85025), and a TSH (CPT code 84443). The change to non-covered service has been made retroactive to testing performed back as far as August 1, 2000.

If you are ordering the three tests for diagnostic reasons **do not order the panel; tests must be marked individually on the test requisition**. As always, offices must continue to provide ICD-9 diagnostic codes that meet the medical necessity requirements for each test ordered to avoid further delays and rework by your staff.

If you order a General Health Panel, Medicare assumes the test is for screening purposes, regardless of the coding provided. Due to compliance issues, the laboratory cannot unbundle the tests and reorder individually. Please be sure your patient understands the three panel components will be run, but the patient will be responsible for the entire cost (\$117.00).