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Intersocietal Accreditation Commission

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News Release

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The Intersocietal Accreditation Commission Receives Designation by CMS as Accrediting Organization for MIPPA

Ellicott City, MD — The Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC) has been approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to accredit suppliers seeking to furnish the technical component (TC) of advanced diagnostic imaging services under the Medicare program.

As part of the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA), by January 1, 2012, all nonhospital providers of advanced diagnostic imaging, inclusive of Nuclear Medicine, MR, CT and PET, must be accredited as a condition for reimbursement.

Sandra Katanick, CAE, CEO of the IAC, remarked, “Having offered nationally recognized, voluntary accreditation programs for more than 20 years, the IAC is proud to receive recognition by CMS as a designated accrediting organization for MIPPA. We submitted a comprehensive application which documented every aspect of the IAC divisions’ highly regarded processes of accreditation. Through the requirement put into place by MIPPA, Medicare patients will receive the benefits of quality diagnostic imaging procedures performed only in accredited laboratories.”

Specific to the MIPPA accreditation requirement:

ICANL – offers accreditation for nuclear medicine, nuclear cardiology and PET facilities; www.icanl.org

ICAMRL – offers accreditation for magnetic resonance in the areas of Body, Cardiovascular, Musculoskeletal and Neurological; www.icamrl.org

ICACTL – offers accreditation for computed tomography in the areas of Coronary Calcium Scoring, Cardiovascular CTA, Neuro [Brain, Spine, CTA], Sinus and Temporal Bone, Body CT [Chest (Non-Cardiac), Abdomen, Pelvis, Extremity], Body CTA [Chest (Non-Cardiac), Abdomen, Pelvis, Peripheral/Extremity]; www.icactl.org

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ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY LABORATORIES

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The IAC is a preeminent leader in contributing to continuous improvement in health care by its exclusive dedication to recognizing and establishing value driven quality standards through collaboration with professional medical membership organizations and to providing peer review accreditation.

The IAC website, www.intersocietal.org, contains links to the CMS published documents including the January 26, 2010 issue of the *Federal Register* containing the notice of CMS' approval of IAC for fulfillment of the accreditation requirement for advanced diagnostic imaging. In addition to MIPPA, there are several additional payment policies linking the accreditation status of the laboratory to reimbursement. Specific details can be found on the Reimbursement section of each IAC division website.

“Our major concern is that providers will not realize the time and effort required to obtain accreditation. MIPPA requires that the laboratories essentially have a ‘certificate in hand’ on or before January 1, 2012 in order to be reimbursed through CMS,” stressed Katanick. The IAC recommends that laboratories begin work on their applications for accreditation now and submit prior to July 2011 in order to allow ample time to achieve accreditation. The IAC looks forward to partnering with the providers of diagnostic imaging to achieve accreditation for their laboratories. Laboratories are encouraged to contact the office (800-838-2110) today or visit the websites (www.intersocietal.org) to start the accreditation process.

To date, the IAC accrediting bodies have granted accreditation to more than 8,000 laboratory sites throughout the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico. The accreditation granted by the IAC signifies that a laboratory has been reviewed by an independent agency and that the applicant facility was found to be in substantial compliance with objective standards of quality.

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