Dear Health Care Professional:

In response to your feedback, we are revising our pathology testing payment policy – action required

In response to the feedback we received from numerous physicians, we are updating our in-office surgical pathology policy. In a letter dated March 23, 2012, we informed you that CLIA and CAP certification would be required for payment of surgical pathology. In response to your concerns, we are moving back the effective date and increasing the number of acceptable accrediting organizations.

**Accreditation deadline extended to January 1, 2013; other accrediting organizations accepted**

Effective January 1, 2013, to receive payment for services, we will require practices offering in-office surgical pathology testing to be certified with Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA)* and one of the following accrediting entities under CLIA:

- College of American Pathologists (CAP)
- American Osteopathic Association/HFAP
- The Joint Commission

This requirement applies to the professional component of services billed in the CPT-4 code range 88300-88314 and 88342. The accreditation process ensures that every lab offering these services meets the highest possible standards for operation under the law.¹

**Send us your CLIA and other credentials**

To ensure your practice doesn’t experience a gap in payment, submit your CLIA certificate (or equivalent state certification) and proof of accreditation from one of the accrediting entities under CLIA to NationalAncillaryContracting@aetna.com by January 1, 2013.

If your office does not currently have both of these credentials and you wish to provide pathology services in your office, you must obtain and forward proof of these credentials to us. Please submit your credentials to us by January 1, 2013, in order to continue receiving payment for these services. Services performed after this date will not be paid. Per your Aetna participation agreement, members should not be balanced billed.

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*Or equivalent state certification in New York and Washington in place of CLIA accreditation; CAP or equivalent certification would still apply in Washington. We will also accept the New York Department of Health certification in place of CAP, AOA (HFAP), or The Joint Commission.

¹Laboratory Economics, October 2011.
Find network laboratories and other providers online
If your practice does not obtain these credentials by January 1, 2013, please refer your Aetna patients to in-network labs that provide pathology services. In-network labs include our preferred laboratories, Quest Diagnostics and AmeriPath.

To see our national list of in-network laboratories, visit our DocFind” online provider directory at www.aetna.com.

1. Select “Find a Doctor.”
2. Under “Search for,” select “Labs – Including Quest Diagnostics.”
3. Under “Type,” select “National Lab Listing.”

You can also call our Provider Service Center at:
- 1-800-624-0756 for calls related to HMO-based benefits plans
- 1-888-MD Aetna (1-888-632-3862) for all other plans

Call if you have questions
We appreciate your attention to this matter. If you have questions about this letter, please contact Tammy Gaul, senior network manager, at 215-775-2437 or via fax at 860-754-1740.

Sincerely,

James D. Cross, MD
Head of National Medical Policy & Operations

Cc: Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program