Medical Necessity and Advanced Beneficiary Notice (ABN)

Mercy Clinical Laboratory (MCL) will provide information regarding medical necessity and ABN forms to clients and providers. Clients will be billed if the necessary ABN did not accompany the patient sample.

Directions for Completing Advanced Beneficiary (ABN) Forms

ABN forms can be obtained by contacting MCL Customer Service or from the MCL website.  

1. Enter the patient’s first and last name. Use the middle initial if it appears on the Medicare card.
2. Identify services that may be denied in the “Tests/Procedures/Services” box.
3. Indicate the reason Medicare may not pay for each item. Common reasons:
   a. Medicare does not pay for this test for your condition.
   b. Medicare does not pay for this test as often as this (denied as too frequent).
   c. Medicare does not pay for experimental or research use tests.
4. Enter the estimated cost of each item. The ABN price is listed in the MCL Test Catalog on the MCL website.
5. Explain to the patient why they may be responsible for payment.
6. Ask the patient to read Options 1-3 and select an option, indicating the selection by placing a check mark in one of the option boxes.
7. If the patient cannot or will not make a selection, annotate, “patient refused to choose an option” and do not collect the tests indicated on the ABN form.
8. Ask the patient to sign and date the form.
9. Give the patient a copy (yellow) of the ABN form. Make a copy if the ABN form was printed off the website.
10. Send the original (white) to the laboratory with the test orders and specimens.
11. Pink copy is for the facility. Make a copy if the ABN form was printed off the website.

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