

CMS Manual System

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Transmittal 800

Date: DECEMBER 30, 2005

Change Request 4156

SUBJECT: Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory Date of Service (DOS) for Archived Specimens

I. SUMMARY OF CHANGES: This CR implements date of service (DOS) policy for tests on archived specimens and the revised DOS policy for a laboratory test that requires a specimen collection obtained from storage.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 3, 2006

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: April 3, 2006

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Background: This CR implements the revised date of service (DOS) policy for laboratory tests. It also clarifies what is/or is not an archived specimen. This revised policy was issued by a **Federal Register** notice dated February 25, 2005 (70 FR 9357).

B. Policy: The date of service policy for laboratory tests is as follows:

General Rule: The DOS of the test shall be the date the specimen was collected.

Variation: If a specimen is collected over a period that spans two calendar days, then the DOS shall be the date the collection ended.

Exception: If a specimen was stored for more than 30 calendar days before testing (otherwise known as “an archived specimen”), the DOS of the test shall be the date the specimen was obtained from storage.

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