



Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) Certification

Texas Medicaid and Healthcare Partnership (TMHP)

Results in Brief

Why OIG Conducted This Inspection

The Texas Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG) Audit and Inspections Division (OIG Inspections) conducted an inspection of Texas Medicaid and Healthcare Partnership (TMHP) processes to ensure laboratory service providers have the appropriate Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) certification prior to paying submitted claims.

OIG Inspections conducted work to determine whether MCOs controls ensure payments made to laboratories were only for services covered under the laboratory's CLIA certification level. OIG conducted this additional work to determine whether controls were in place for fee-for-service claims paid by TMHP.

Summary of Review

The inspection objective was to determine whether TMHP has controls to ensure payments made to laboratories are only for services covered under the laboratory's CLIA certification level.

The inspection scope covered TMHP processes and claims from September 1, 2021, through November 30, 2021.

Key Results

Texas Medicaid and Healthcare Partnership (TMHP) has processes for obtaining the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) certificate information at the time a laboratory enrolls in Texas Medicaid. TMHP receives a file from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) weekly, which is used in an automated process to update CLIA information in its claims payer system. TMHP has automated edits to check the CLIA certification type but does not have processes for denying claims from laboratory providers that bill for laboratory procedures not covered by their CLIA certificate.

Recommendations

The TMHP claims payer system should include lab certification codes in its claims adjudication process and deny claims for procedure codes that do not correspond to the lab certification codes listed on the provider's CLIA certificate.

TMHP should ensure procedure codes in its claims payer system correspond to the lab certification codes listed on the providers' CLIA certificate.

Management Response

OIG Inspections presented preliminary inspection results, observations, and recommendations to TMHP in a draft report dated June 22, 2022. TMHP agreed with the inspection's recommendations. TMHP's management response is included in the report following the recommendations.

For more information, contact: OIGInspectionsReports@hhs.texas.gov