American Clinical Laboratory Association

May 23, 2014

Ms. Greta Rymal
Deputy Executive Commissioner for Financial Services
State of Texas, Health and Human Services Commission
11209 Metric Blvd, Building H, Mail Code H100
PO Box 85200
Austin, TX 78758

Dear Commissioner Rymal:

On behalf of the members of the American Clinical Laboratory Association (ACLA), I am writing to ask you to delay the June 1, 2014, effective date of the proposed Medicaid payment rates for 124 molecular diagnostic laboratory services until we have had an opportunity to meet with representatives of the rate analysis department to discuss the new rates. ACLA is an association representing local, regional and national laboratories; our members perform these tests for Texas residents, including Texas Medicaid beneficiaries.

We first learned that Texas Medicaid was proposing new clinical laboratory services rates on May 9, 2014, by way of a notice of the May 30th public hearing published in the Texas Register. According to the notice, the actual rates themselves would be available on or after May 16, just two weeks before the May 30 hearing date and the June 1 effective date. We now have the proposed rates and are in the process of reviewing them, but it is not possible to review 124 new rates in the time period allowed.

Advances in molecular diagnostics enable personalized medicine, an emerging field of medicine that uses diagnostic tools to identify specific biological markers, often genetic, and help determine which medical treatments and procedures will be best for each patient. Appropriate payment rates will allow laboratories to continue to these critically important tests to all patients, including the Medicaid population.

Thank you for your attention to this request. I will contact the commission shortly to follow up. In the meantime, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me at 202-637-9703 or glisson@acla.com.

Sincerely,

JoAnne Glisson
Senior Vice President

cc: Kay Ghahremani, Associate Commissioner for Medicaid/CHIP
Guilda Roman, Hospital Rate Analysis