

MEDICARE PART A BULLETIN

June 16, 1997

General Medicare Bulletin G-288

TO: All Medicare Providers

FROM: Andy DePirro, Director Program Relations

SUBJECT: **DELAY IN IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW TEMPORARY LABORATORY
PANEL CODES UNTIL JANUARY 1, 1998**

ATTENTION MEDICARE BUSINESS OFFICE MANAGER: Please distribute to all appropriate health care facility personnel.

General Medicare Bulletin G-284, dated May 16, 1997, announced the new laboratory panel that were approved during the American Medical Association (AMA) Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) November, 1996 board meeting. It also published the Health Care Financing Administration's (HCFA) new temporary procedure codes assigned for reporting of the new laboratory panels (i.e., G0095, G0096, G0097 and G0098).

The purpose of this bulletin is to advise providers that HCFA has delayed the implementation of these codes until January 1, 1998. The delay of this implementation will also eliminate the need to utilize the temporary procedure codes (i.e., G0095, G0096, G0097 and G0098). However, **HCFA's instructions in General Medicare Bulletin G-284, pertaining to the elimination of multi-channel laboratory test (i.e., 80002 through 80019 and G0058 through G0060) as HCPCS codes effective for services performed on and after January 1, 1998, is still in effect.** Providers should ensure that they review and make the necessary changes in their business office operation to comply with these guidelines which will, as well as the new laboratory panels, take effect January 1, 1998.

Questions regarding this bulletin may be addressed to the Medicare Part A Customer Service Department by calling (904) 355-8899.