

Medicare “Date of Service” Rule (aka 14-day rule)

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Medicare 14-day rule?

The Medicare 14-day rule determines what date Medicare will consider to be the date of service for purposes of establishing who may bill Medicare for certain laboratory services (e.g., the date a specimen was collected, the date a patient was discharged, or the date a specimen was retrieved from storage).

To whom does the rule apply?

The rule impacts those who collect specimens for clinical laboratory testing, order clinical laboratory tests or perform clinical laboratory services.

How does the 14-day rule impact my relationship with FMI?

The 14-day rule determines whether FMI will bill Medicare or bill the hospital for a test it provides to a Medicare patient.

Who will receive a bill for a FMI test if it is ordered less than 14 days after an inpatient or outpatient is discharged?

If a physician submits an order less than 14 days after an inpatient or outpatient is discharged, FMI will bill the hospital for performing the test.

What if I have to cancel a test?

Canceling a test is not a problem as long as the decision to do so is guided by appropriate clinical judgment and not to avoid the application of Medicare billing rules. FMI will follow applicable billing rules based on the date you order a test. FMI takes no position as to what the best clinical timing may be for any specific patient.

We're Here to Help - Contact Information

Our Client Services Representatives are available from 8:00 am ET – 6:00 pm ET, Monday through Friday at (888) 988-3639 or email client.services@foundationmedicine.com.