

## (IDTFs) INDEPENDENT DIAGNOSTIC TESTING FACILITIES

### What is the purpose of an IDTF?

A federal regulation for Independent Diagnostic Testing Facilities was published in the October 31, 1997, issue of the *Federal Register*. This regulation establishes that for diagnostic procedures performed on or after July 1, 1998, Medicare payment will be made only where the service is performed by a: (1) physician, (2) physician group, (3) approved supplier of portable x-ray services, or (4) IDTF. For parties that do not meet the first three criteria, they could become an IDTF to perform diagnostic procedures for Medicare beneficiaries.

### Who might be interested in becoming an IDTF?

It may be appropriate to become an IDTF if you are interested in providing certain diagnostic services to Medicare beneficiaries, particularly for: overnight pulse oximetry, pulmonary function testing, ABG analysis, etc.

### What are the requirements for becoming an IDTF?

- An IDTF must have one or more supervising physicians who are responsible for both the direct and ongoing oversight of the quality of testing performed and the proper operation and calibration of the equipment used to perform tests.
- The supervising physician must prove proficiency in the performance and interpretation of each type of diagnostic procedure performed by the IDTF.
- The supervising physician is also responsible for the qualification of non-physician personnel who use the equipment.
- Any non-physician personnel used by the IDTF to perform tests must demonstrate the basic qualifications to perform the test and have training and proficiency in performing the test.
- Any non-physician personnel's qualifications must be evident by licensure or certification by the appropriate state health or education department or must be certified by the appropriate national credentialing body.
- All procedures performed by the IDTF must be specifically ordered in writing by the physician who treats the beneficiary (i.e., the physician who is furnishing a consultation or treating a beneficiary for a specific medical problem and who uses the results in the management of the beneficiary's specific medical problem).
- An IDTF that operates across state boundaries must maintain documentation that its supervising physician and technicians are licensed and certified in each of the states in which it is furnishing services.

### What is the process for enrolling as an IDTF?

Interested parties should complete a HCFA 855 form, available from HCFA's website at [www.hcfa.gov](http://www.hcfa.gov) or by contacting the Provider Enrollment Department at your local Medicare carrier. Application processing time is typically 4-6 weeks.

### Who do I call with questions?

We encourage you to seek the advice of your personal healthcare lawyer to determine if becoming an IDTF would be appropriate and for help completing the HCFA 855 form correctly. For other complex reimbursement issues, you may call the Respironics Reimbursement Support Line at 877-606-2255.

<b>Concerning Reimbursement:</b>	<b>Contact:</b>	<b>Phone:</b>
Information and Fee Schedules	Our Website	www.respironics.com
Educational Materials	Customer Service	1-800-345-6443
Questions (coding, coverage & payment)	Reimbursement Support Line	1-877-606-2255
Government Relations	Consulting Services	1-412-473-4020