Humana recently updated its Provider Administration Manual (PAM). One of the updates pertains to the submission of lab results data to Humana and the potential impact to provider reimbursements for noncompliance. There are several important points for Humana network providers to understand.

- **As always, Humana's objective is to comply with NCQA and CMS requirements and to work with health care providers to support the overall well-being of our members:** To that end, we must work together with network health care providers to capture and submit member data to report on HEDIS® and Stars, as well as other quality-related activities. The HIPAA Privacy Rule permits a provider to disclose protected health information to a health plan for the quality-related health care operations of the health plan, provided that the health plan has or had a relationship with the individual who is the subject of the information. Additional details can be found on the following website: [http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/faq/disclosures/265.html](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/faq/disclosures/265.html).

- **To the extent providers utilize them, Humana will leverage national reference labs when possible to obtain lab results data:** Humana can capture Humana member lab results data through existing connections with national reference labs, such as Laboratory Corporation of America® or Quest Diagnostics®. As such, Humana may not need to gather lab results directly from your practice.

- **Providers should continue business as usual until contacted by Humana:** Humana’s goals are to capture the lab results with minimal disruption to the provider’s operations and to leverage the provider’s existing technology to capture those lab results. Humana will work diligently with the provider to identify the best way to capture lab results. The Humana network relations director or contracting representative will contact the provider to initiate that discussion. Until contacted, providers should continue business as usual as it relates to the lab update verbiage, even after October 21, 2013, the date mentioned in the PAM update letter. There will be no financial impact before Humana contacts you.