

(Continued)

and must participate in proficiency testing. Until now, all surveys have been conducted on-site.

Currently, HCFA is responsible for implementing federal quality assurance standards for 152,000 laboratories. Of these laboratories, 59 percent are exempt from surveys because they do only simple tests. The remaining 41 percent are subject to routine surveys under CLIA.

Under the new survey process, a laboratory's completed self-assessment form and supplemental documentation are reviewed. If no problems are identified, the laboratory will be recertified for two years, the duration of the CLIA certification cycle.



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"Just tell him the Chairman of the Mental Health Committee returned his call."