HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION "Touching Lives Everyday"	*Quality Through Compliance*	**Policy No.:** **FIN 0516**
		Revision No.: N/A
Policies and Procedures	**Issued by:** Corporate Compliance Committee	**Effective Date:** September 15, 2000
Subject: ***Critical Pathway Laboratory Orders***	**Approved by:** Thomas M. Driskill, Jr. President & CEO	**Supersedes Policy:** N/A
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I. PURPOSE: To monitor the use of laboratory critical pathway orders is in accordance with Medicare, Medicaid, and other federally funded payor guidelines.

II. POLICY: Laboratory critical pathway orders are permitted as long as they are valid, documented, medically necessary, and monitored for appropriateness.

III. PROCEDURE: The following steps must be performed to ensure laboratory critical pathway orders are in accordance with Medicare, Medicaid, and other federally funded payor guidelines. It is the responsibility of the Chief Financial Officer at each facility to guarantee adherence to this policy.

A. Implementation and Annual Review:

1. Laboratory personnel and the Laboratory Medical Director must review critical pathway order needs with the medical staff on an annual basis and obtain input and approval. All laboratory tests included in critical pathways must be medically necessary.

2. The critical pathway laboratory test approval must be documented in the annual medical staff meeting minutes.

3. All staff/physicians responsible for ordering and billing laboratory services will be educated on the contents of this policy.

4. Mechanisms must be established and implemented in order for business office personnel to identify intermediary interpretations which vary from the interpretations in this policy. Specific intermediary documentation related to the variance(s) must be obtained and faxed to the Regional Compliance Officer who would report to the Corporate Compliance Officer.

B. Daily:

Ordering personnel must verify the documentation of medical necessity is present in the patient's chart/order indicating the need for the specific critical pathway. If medical necessity is not present, refer to the Advanced Beneficiary Notice Policy.

C. Definition:

Critical Pathway**:** A critical pathway is a group of commonly ordered tests for a specific diagnosis, sign, or symptom that has been validated by the medical staff and is medically necessary in treating a patient's condition. Critical pathways may be defined by medical staff, insurance companies, and/or utilization review organizations and may differ by locality.