



COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER INSURANCE

July 24, 2014

RULING LETTER: CN-2014-182-D

TO ALL HEALTH INSURANCE ORGANIZATIONS AND INSURERS THAT WRITE HEALTH INSURANCE IN PUERTO RICO OTHER THAN MEDICARE ADVANTAGE OR MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTARY PLANS

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 327 OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH OF PUERTO RICO: COVERAGE FOR TAKING AND HANDLING BLOOD SAMPLES FOR THE DETECTION OF THE CHIKUNGUNYA VIRUS

Dear Sirs and Madams:

On July 22, 2014, the Department of Health of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico issued Administrative Order No. 327 requiring that until further notice all clinical laboratories and health providers or institutions: 1) take blood samples for the detection of the chikungunya virus from all patients who meet the definition of an acute stage case and 2) take the blood sample to the Public Health Laboratory of the Department of Health to be processed and determine whether in fact it is a confirmed case of the virus. Enclosed is Administrative Order No. 327 of the Department of Health.

As a result of the Administrative Order, our Office has received several consultations related to coverage by insurers and health insurance organizations of the taking of blood samples.

To this effect, we are hereby clarifying that insurers and health insurance organizations have the obligation to cover the cost of taking blood samples to detect the chikungunya virus as though it were any other blood test that is covered under the health insurance provided by the insurer or health insurance organization. The sample will be taken as soon as the patient brings in a medical order for that purpose. In addition, we are ordering insurers and health insurance organizations to provide to all clinical laboratories, and health providers or institutions that take blood samples, the code or method by which they should invoice the insurer or health insurance organization in order to receive payment for the services rendered.

We trust that our licensees will recognize the need for the immediate cooperation of all of the components of the health care field, including insurers and health insurance organizations, so that we can deal with the chikungunya virus to control it as soon as possible, with a view to the well-being of the public.

Strict compliance with this Ruling Letter is hereby required.

Very truly yours,

SIGNED

Ángela Weyne-Roig
Commissioner of Insurance