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Sandra B. Mortham, *EVP & CEO*

March 20, 2003

Rhonda Medows, M.D., *Secretary*
Agency for Health Care Administration
2728 Mahan Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Dear Dr. Medows:

It was recently brought to the attention of the Florida Medical Association (FMA) that the Agency for Health Care Administration issued a notice to providers pertaining to changes in laboratory licensure renewal. The notice stated that effective January 1, 2003 AHCA will no longer send renewal notices by mail to providers except those mandated by CLIA. It will be up to providers to download the licensure renewal form from the AHCA website and submit it along with the renewal fee 60 days before the date that the licensure is due to expire. Failure to do so will result in substantial fines. A representative from the AHCA laboratory area informed FMA staff that AHCA plans to communicate with providers by e-mail and website as much as possible.

The FMA feels that this decision not to notify physicians places an extreme burden on physician offices. While we understand that budgets are tight, and it is much less expensive for AHCA to communicate via e-mail, there are many physicians, especially in rural areas, who do not have access to a computer. In addition, AHCA does not have most physician's email addresses. The FMA feels that it would be more appropriate for AHCA to continue to notify providers that their renewal date is near.

The FMA requests that AHCA review this decision and the problems that will cause for providers. Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Cline, M.D.
President

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