

# Frequently Asked Questions

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## What's Changing with CLIA Fees & Certificates

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is improving the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) program by switching to electronic fee coupons and CLIA certificates. **By March 1, 2026**, laboratories must switch to CMS email notifications to start receiving electronic CLIA fee coupons and certificates. After this date, paper fee coupons and CLIA certificates will no longer be available. For more information, visit [Clinical Laboratory Improvement \(CLIA\) Amendments](#).

## What are the Benefits to Going Paperless

When your laboratory switches to email notifications from CMS, you'll get:

- **Electronic Fee Coupons\*** - no longer paper coupons. In addition, you can pay your CLIA certification fees via [Pay.gov](#), a secure online platform. Your payment gets processed overnight – a faster way to pay!
- **Electronic CLIA Certificates\*** - no need to wait for it to come in the mail. Certificates will be sent to your laboratory's email address.

## What Does My Laboratory Need to Do?

Make sure CMS has your laboratory's most up-to-date email address on file so you get important updates and information. CMS recommends you use a business email address or one that many staffers can access and use.

To switch to electronic notifications or update your email address, you must:

- Provide written notification to your [State Agency](#) by email.
- OR-**
- Fill out the [CMS-116 application form](#). To switch, check the box, "Receive notifications including electronic certificates via email."

## How Does My Laboratory Use Pay.gov?

Pay.gov is a secure platform hosted by the Treasury Department. To pay fees online:

1. Go to <https://www.pay.gov>
2. Type "CLIA" in the search box in the upper-right corner.
3. Enter the CLIA ID number included in your invoice.

Pay.gov accepts bank account (ACH) or debit or credit cards for online payments.

## When Does My Laboratory Need to Go Paperless?

Laboratories have until March 1, 2026 to switch to email notifications and begin receiving electronic fee coupons and CLIA certificates. After this date, CMS will no longer mail paper fee coupons or paper CLIA certificates.

## Will My Laboratory Still Be Able to Use Paper Coupons?

Paper coupons and CLIA certificates will still be available before the March 1, 2026 deadline. After that, all fee coupons and CLIA certificates will be electronic.

## What If My Laboratory Misses the Deadline for Switching to Email Notifications?

Your laboratory should contact your [State Agency](#) for assistance.