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The Healthcare Bulletin

Medicare Part D Resource Information

CMS educational resource information for physicians and healthcare professionals is available at www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/drugcoverage.asp.

Special Open Door Forum August 29, 2005

CMS will be hosting a Special Open Door Forum on Monday, August 29, 2005 regarding the proposed changes to the Provider/Supplier Enrollment applications. On July 8, 2005, CMS published proposed changes to the enrollment applications in the Federal Register. The forum will be held from 2:00 - 4:00 pm (EDT). To participate by phone dial: 1-800-837-1935 and reference Conference ID 8401874.

Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) Edits to Apply to All Therapy Providers

The Medicare CCI edits will become effective January 1, 2006. The application of the edits under the physician fee schedule will make payment for outpatient therapy services uniform. To review the CCI edits that apply to Medicare Part B services paid by Medicare fiscal intermediaries see <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/providers/hopps/cciedits/> on the CMS website. (Source: *Medlearn Matters Number SE0545*).

PPS Final Rule

The PPS final rule will be implemented January 1, 2006. The number of RUGs will be expanded from 44 to 53. The nine new groups account for the higher costs of beneficiaries requiring both rehabilitation and certain high intensity medical services. In addition, the 128 percent adjustment for SNF residents with AIDS, the use of grace days, and the hospital look back period will remain. For an overview of the PPS final rule, access the CMS website at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/providers/snfpps/fy06finalrule-overview.asp>.

August Update to RAI Manual

CMS has posted the August update to the RAI Manual at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/quality/mds20/rai0812upd.pdf/>. The update includes Section W Supplemental Items and a revised listing of State Agency Contacts and RAI Coordinators.

Nursing Home Immunization Satellite Broadcast and Webcast

CMS will host a nursing home immunization

Satellite Broadcast and Web cast on Thursday, September 8, 2005 1:00 pm -3:00pm EDT. Providers can register at www.cms.internetstreaming.com.

MDS Section W

Section W will become effective October 1, 2005. Section W has been added to the MDS Assessment Form, the RAI Manual Version 2.0, all forms of the MDS, and the MPAF (MDS Medicare PPS Assessment Form). Section W includes a National Provider Identification and Influenza and Pneumococcal Immunization items. CMS will present a satellite broadcast/webcast on this section on September 8. Providers can register at www.cms.internetstreaming.com.

CMS Ending Contingency for Non-HIPAA- Compliant Medicare Claims

Mark B. McClellan, M.D., Ph.D., Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) administrator, has announced that CMS will not process incoming non-HIPAA-compliant electronic Medicare claims submitted for payment beginning October 1, 2005. (Source: *LTC Open Door Forum*)

New Expedited Review Process Effective July 1, 2005

Providers may access Frequently Asked Questions about the new expedited review process at the CMS' Beneficiary Notices Web page at www.cms.hhs.gov/medicare/bni Providers may also print the Generic and Detailed Notice forms from the website, or the forms may be ordered in NCR from Ed Roberts at 1-800-277-0080. Request MAPS 071 and MAPS 072.

Medicare Resource Manual

New providers will find *Medicare Resource Guidelines and Information for the Skilled Nursing Facility* a must to guide them through the maze of Medicare rules and regulations. This two-volume manual and other healthcare manuals and forms can be ordered from www.mjcpa.com, or call Ed Roberts at 1-800-277-0080.

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