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# The Healthcare Bulletin

## Long Term Care Open Door Forum

The next CMS SNF/Long Term Care Open Door forum is scheduled for July 28, 2005 at 2:00PM (EDT). To participate by phone dial 1-800-837-1935 and reference Conference ID 2865536.

## New Fast Track Expedited Review Process

Beginning July 1, 2005 beneficiaries have access to a new fast-track expedited review process when their Medicare coverage is terminated. Providers must issue the notice at least two days in advance. CMS has published two notices - the Notice of Medicare Provider Non-Coverage (Generic Notice) and the Detailed Explanation of Non-Coverage (Detailed Notice) on the CMS Beneficiary Notices Initiative webpage at [www.cms.hhs.gov/medicare/bni](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medicare/bni). CMS emphasizes that, between July 1, 2005 and October 1, 2005 affected providers may use either the standardized notices or the model notices that have been available on the CMS website since April. As of October 1, 2005, providers must use the new standardized notices exclusively. (Source: CMS' BNI webpage)

Note: Maps Group of Mauldin & Jenkins will have the new expedited review forms available in NCR. To order call 1-800-277-0080.

## Quality Improvement Organizations' (QIO) Contact Information

State QIO contact information including phone numbers and email addresses can be found on the Medicare Quality Improvement Community (MedQIC) website at [www.medqic.org](http://www.medqic.org). Click on QIO Listing on the menu on the left side of the screen. The phone numbers listed are not the numbers to enter on the Generic and Detailed Notices. Contact your state QIO for the number(s). For Georgia the QIO is Georgia Medical Care Foundation. The telephone numbers for the Generic and Detailed Notices are: 678-527-3413 or 1-800-982-0411.

## Medical Director Tag F501

On June 9, 2005 CMS issued an Advance Copy of the final change to the Interpretive Guidelines for Tag F501, Medical Director, for nursing homes. The new guidance includes Interpretive Guidelines, an Investigative Protocol, and Severity guidance for defi-

ciencies cited at F501. CMS is delaying final issuance until November 2005 to allow surveyors to be trained in the new guidance and to permit facilities and medical directors to study the significantly revised and expanded guidance. (Reference: S&C -05-29)

## RAI Manual June 15 Update - Estimate of Therapy Days and Minutes

MDS coordinators and therapist should note the changes for coding the estimated number of therapy days and minutes. The June RAI update states, "The projection is based on the actual number of days ordered", not the estimate for 15 days.

## Payment Adjustments Identified By DAVE

CMS Transmittal 158 issued June 17, 2005 provides fiscal intermediaries with instructions for processing payment adjustments identified by the DAVE Program Safeguard Contractor Medical Review.

## Educational Products on Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage

CMS has released the fifth in the Medlearn Matters series of educational material on the new Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage. See Medlearn Matters Number SE0541 at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/matters.mmarticles/2005/SE0541.pdf> This resource material is valuable for providers, beneficiaries, and families.

## Medicare: Resource Information And Guidelines For The Skilled Nursing Facility

This two-volume operation guide covers certification requirements, RUG III payments, coverage decisions, the SNFABN, consolidated billing, compliance issues and much more. This manual is a must for new providers as well as for those already participating in the Medicare program. Updates are available by subscription. Price: \$295. To order call Ed Roberts at 1-800-277-0080 or order online at [www.mjcpa.com](http://www.mjcpa.com)

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