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# The Healthcare Bulletin

## **Expedited Review Process for Beneficiaries Effective July 1, 2005**

Beginning July 1, 2005, beneficiaries in original Medicare will have access to a new fast-track, expedited review process when Medicare coverage of their SNF, HHA, CORF, or hospice services is about to end. Based on the provisions of the November 2004 final rule, the Notice of Medicare Provider Non-Coverage (Generic Notice) must be issued to Medicare beneficiaries no later than two days before the effective date of the end of the Medicare coverage. If the beneficiary does not agree that coverage should end, the beneficiary may request an expedited review of the termination decision by the Quality Improvement Organization (QI) in that State. The provider then must furnish the Detailed Explanation of Non-Coverage (Detailed Notice) to the beneficiary explaining why the services are no longer covered. Generally, the QIO's review will be completed within 72 hours of the QIO's receipt of the beneficiary's request for a review. Further information on the new expedited review process, including the Generic Notice, Detailed Notice, and related instructions can be found on CMS' Beneficiary Notices Initiative web page at: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Medicare/bni>. (Source: *Medlearn Matters Number: SE0538 Revised, June 6, 2005*)

### **Special Open Door Forum**

CMS is holding a Special Open Door forum, **Presentation of Requirements Pertaining to the New Expedited Review Process**, on June 20, 2005, 2:00-4:00PM (Eastern Time). The forum is to provide further guidance on the new Expedited Review Process that is effective July 1, 2005. To participate by phone, dial 1-800-837-1935 and reference Conference ID:6586601.

### **National Provider Identifier Requirement**

As part of the HIPAA guidelines, a National Provider Identifier (NPI) will be required for all covered entities in standard transactions by May 23, 2007. Small health plans must comply by May 23, 2008. The NPI will replace the current provider numbers assigned by Medicaid, Medicare, and private health plans, thereby eliminating the need for multiple provider identification numbers. Transition to

the NPI will occur over the next few years. CMS has contracted with Fox Systems, Inc. (referred to as the Enumerator) to process NPI applications and perform support for the NPI project. An application for an NPI may be completed on-line at the following website address: <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov>. A paper application may be completed and mailed beginning July 1, 2005. A copy of the application and mailing address will be available at the website address noted above. You may request a copy of the application by phone at 1-800-465-3203 or TTY 1-800-692-2326. Paper applications may not be submitted prior to July 1, 2005.

### **RAI User's Manual Revision**

Revisions to the RAI User's Manual were posted May 23 at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/quality/mds20/>. The changes become effective June 15, 2005.

### **Medicare Announces New Proposed Rule to Improve Hospice Care**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced on May 25, 2005 that it will propose a new rule that would improve the quality of care provided to more than 700,000 Medicare beneficiaries receiving hospice care each year. (Source: *CMS Office of Media Affairs, May 25, 2005*)

### **Report on Changes in Use of Voluntary Workers in Nursing Homes**

The report, "Changes in Use of Voluntary Workers in Nursing Homes: United States, 1985 and 1999" is available at [www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/ad/ad357.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/ad/ad357.pdf).

### **Medicare Participation**

Please call Darlene Greenhill at 770-541-5429 for consultation, teaching, and training.

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