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# The Healthcare Bulletin

## DAVE Project Ending

CMS has announced that the DAVE (Data Assessment and Verification) project will end April 30, 2005, due to lack of funding.

## Claims Processing Manual - ICD-9-CM Coding Guidance for SNFS

The Medicare Claims Processing Manual has been revised to include International Classification of Diseases, 9th Edition, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) coding guidance for SNFs. (Source: *Medlearn Matters Number: MM3664*)

## Medicare Claims Appeals

On Tuesday, March 8, 2005, CMS published an interim final rule "Medicare Program: Changes to the Medicare Claims Appeal Procedures." (Federal Register/Vol. 70 No. 44)

## CMS Webcast - "Making Sense of Data"

Providers can register for the free CMS webcast at <http://cms.internetstreaming.com>. The webcast is scheduled for March 18. (entitled "Making Sense of Data")

## Arrangements With An Outside Entity

"While an SNF and its supplier need not execute a formalized legal contract in order to enter into a valid arrangement, developing supporting documentation that reduces to writing the arranged-for services for which the SNF assumes responsibility (and the manner in which the SNF will pay the supplier for those services) can help to ensure that the two parties arrive at a mutual understanding on these points." (Source: *Pub. 100-04 Transmittal 412, dated December 23, 2004*). Providers should refer to the entire transmittal to develop a policy and procedure for valid arrangements.

## Non-Ambulance Transportation

Medicare does not cover non-ambulance transportation. Therefore, non-ambulance transportation is not included in consolidated billing. It is not the SNF's responsibility. The ambulance company can bill Medicaid or the patient privately.

## Documentation Hint

Always document instructions given to patient and family members. Include responses to indicate that they understand the instructions. Whenever possible, use quotes.

## Medicare Resource Manual

*Medicare: Resource Information and Guidelines for the Skilled Nursing Facility* is the one resource you need to navigate changing Medicare regulations. This step-by-step, PPS operational guide in plain language includes Medicare in the SNF, certification requirements, RUGS III, MDS issues, coverage decisions, denial notices, ABNs, NEMB form, appeals process, and much more. Revisions are provided through a subscription service to ensure information remains accurate as regulations change. This manual is also available on CD at no extra charge. Price: \$295. To order call Ed Roberts at 1-800-277-0080 or visit the website at [mjcpa.com](http://mjcpa.com).

## Medicare Participation

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

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