

September 2005

For more information
800.277.0080

www.mjcpa.com

**MAULDIN
& JENKINS**
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS, LLC

Mauldin & Jenkins, Certified Public Accountants, LLC

The Healthcare Bulletin

Payment Withholding Issues

Intermediaries may withhold payments for SNF's in the following situations:

- Failure to file the cost report by required deadline. Providers have six months from the end of their fiscal year to submit the cost report. (100% withholding remains in place until cost report is submitted and accepted.)
- Overpayment on final settlement. (100% unless payment arrangements are made on amount of overpayment or if payment arrangements are not met.)
- Failure to submit the Credit Balance Report timely. The credit balance report must be submitted quarterly. The next one is due September 30, 2005. Most intermediaries will allow 15 days for submission before notifying the provider of payment withholding.

New Revised Facility Guide for the MDS QI/QM Reports

To view the draft version go to <http://www.qtso.com/mdsdownload.html>

Skilled Nursing Facility Open Door Forum

The next SNF Open Door Forum will be held on September 29, 2005 from 2 PM - 3 PM (EDT). To participate by phone, call 1-800-837-1935 and reference conference ID 2865538.

MDS Section W Supplemental Items Effective October 1, 2005

Providers should be sure their software has been updated. Section W includes Influenza and Pneumococcal Immunization Forms. MDS Coordinators must follow the instructions in the August 2005 Resident Assessment Instrument (RAI) update for completing this section. The instructions on pages 3-240 through 3-246 can be printed off the CMS website.

CDC Flu Gallery

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has a Flu Gallery that providers can access for

information, educational material, and posters about influenza and the flu vaccine. Many of these items can be printed on an office printer. The Flu Gallery can be found at www.cdc.gov/flu/gallery

Immunization Teleconference

"Current Issues in Immunization", a teleconference presented by The National Immunization Program at CDC, will be held October 13, 2005 at 12 PM (ET). For more information or to register go to <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/ed/ciinc/>.

Increase in Part B Premium and Deductible for 2006

The Part B monthly premium for 2006 will increase from \$77.20 to \$88.50. The Part B annual deductible will increase from \$100 to \$124.

NCR Expedited Review Forms Available

The "Generic Notice" of Non-coverage and the "Detailed Notice" explanation of non-coverage NCR forms are now available from MAPS Group of Mauldin & Jenkins. Call Ed Roberts at 1-800-277-0080 or order from the mjcpa.com website. Reminder: The expedited review process does not take the place of the SNF ABN or the other denial notices.

Nursing Home Pay for Performance Demonstration

Recently CMS has begun to develop an initiative called Nursing Home Pay for Performance. Under this initiative, financial incentives would be provided to nursing homes that meet certain standards for providing high quality care. At a special open door forum on September 20, 2005, Abt Associates presented their recommendations to CMS regarding a draft design for a nursing home pay for performance.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this bulletin is for general guidance only. Every reasonable effort has been made to assure the accuracy of the information. Mauldin & Jenkins disclaims all responsibility (including negligence) for all consequences of any person acting on, or refraining from acting on, information contained in this bulletin.