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The Healthcare Bulletin

NPI List Now Available

A list of provider NPIs (National Provider Identifier) is now available at the NPI Registry Website. At the Website you can search for individual or organization providers. The list shows providers' NPI, name, business address, taxonomy code, and for individuals, gender and license number. It will be updated monthly. Full information on the NPI is posted on the CMS NPI page at <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/NPIRegistryHome.doc>

New Survey Rules for Paid Feeding Assistants

Surveyor rules regarding Paid Feeding Assistants were released as a new tag, F373. The regulations are included in revisions to Appendix P and PP of the State Operating Manual. The new language is included in CMS Transmittal 26 released August 17, 2007.

Post-Acute / CARE instrument

CMS has been directed to develop a post-acute assessment tool to gather standardized data on patient health, starting from acute hospital discharge through other post-acute settings, including skilled nursing, home health, LTC hospitals, and inpatient rehabilitation hospitals. The CARE instrument will be used in the Post-Acute Care (PAC) Payment Reform Demonstration program mandated by Section 5008 of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 to develop payment groups that reflect patient severity and related cost and resource use across post acute settings.

The CARE (Continuity Assessment Record and Evaluation) instrument data will be submitted through the Internet. The data will be used to characterize patient severity of illness and level of function in order to predict resource use, post acute care discharge placement, and beneficiary outcomes. It is being tested this summer in five types of provider settings in Chicago. Federal Register of July 27, 2007.

Updated ICD-9-CM Coding Guidelines Effective October 1, 2007

On September 20, 2007 CMS published the 2007-ICD-9 CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting. These guidelines become effective for dates of service on or after October 1, 2007. There are no grace days. Providers should ensure they have updated code books. Source: CMS Manual System Pub 100-04, Transmittal 1269.

Medicaid Tamper-Resistant Prescriptions

Beginning October 1, 2007, in order for Medicaid outpatient drugs to be reimbursed by the federal government, all written, non-electronic prescriptions must be executed on tamper-resistant pads. The requirement does not apply when the prescription is communicated by the prescriber to the pharmacy electronically, verbally, or by fax; a managed care entity pays for the prescription; or in most situations, when drugs are provided in certain institutional and clinical facilities. The requirement also allows for emergency fills as long as a prescriber provides a verbal, faxed, electronic, or compliant written prescription within 72 hours. For detailed information on the requirement, refer to the August 17, 2007 letter issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to State Medicaid Directors.

Alzheimer's Association Issues Recommendations for End of Life Care

In August 2007, The Alzheimer's Association issued an official publication, *Quality End of Life Care for Individuals with Dementia in Assisted Living and Nursing Homes and Public Policy Barriers to Delivering this Care*. For more information about this 26 page publication, contact the Alzheimer's Association at Alzheimer's Association National Office 225 N. Michigan Ave., Fl. 17, Chicago, IL 60601 or visit the website, <http://www.alz.org/>.

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