

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Town Hall Meeting:
Medicare Classification Criteria for Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities

Monday, February 2, 2009
10:00 am-4:00 pm Eastern Time
Meeting at CMS with Audio Conference Lines Available

The purpose of this Town Hall Meeting is to gather public input on the classification criteria commonly applicable to Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities, commonly known as the “75 percent rule.” The compliance percentage threshold is currently set at 60 percent. Public input from this meeting will be considered in the preparation of the Report to Congress required by the Medicare, Medicaid and SCHIP Extension Act of 2007 (MMSEA).

BACKGROUND

CMS has contracted with RTI International to assist CMS in preparing the Report to Congress required by the Medicare, Medicaid and SCHIP Extension Act of 2007 (MMSEA). Specifically, RTI will examine and report on:

- (1) whether Medicare beneficiaries have access to medically necessary rehabilitation services and any potential effect of the “75% rule” on their access to appropriate care?
- (2) whether alternative criteria or refinements to the 75% rule could be used to determine IRF classification, including patients’ functional status, diagnosis, comorbidities, or other attributes?
- (3) whether IRF care is appropriate for certain other types of conditions which are commonly treated in IRFs, but are outside of the 13 conditions specified in the 75% rule? Are there differences in patient outcomes and costs when these cases are treated in different settings?

RTI’s 24 month contract includes two phases. The first phase consists primarily of reviewing the relevant literature and policy materials and compiling stakeholder input. The second phase involves conducting analyses utilizing administrative and clinical assessment data. CMS will be reporting on the first phase in a Report to Congress which is due June 2009. The RTI analysis will continue through 2009 with a final report to CMS by late 2010.

TOWN HALL MEETING

To solicit input on this issue CMS is holding a Town Hall Meeting on the Medicare Classification Criteria for Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities on Monday, February 2, 2009 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm Eastern Time at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in the auditorium at 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland. To recognize that not everyone will be able to attend in-person, interested persons may also participate by audio conference.

Comments should be limited to 5 minutes although longer written comments may be submitted via e-mail to IRFReporttoCongress@cms.hhs.gov. All comments should be submitted to CMS in writing in advance of the meeting via e-mail or sent by hard copy to Julie M. Stankivic, Health Insurance Specialist, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, 7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop C5-06-27, Baltimore, Maryland 21244. Participants who intend to attend in-person are required to register with CMS in advance in accordance with the instructions set forth below.

TO REGISTER TO ATTEND IN-PERSON

Submit an e-mail to IRFReporttoCongress@CMS.hhs.gov including your full name, affiliation (if any) and if you require an assistive listening device or closed captioning services. All CMS visitors must be in possession of a valid government issued form of photo identification, such as a driver's license, age of majority card, passport or visa to gain access to the CMS complex. In addition, you will be subject to a thorough vehicular inspection upon arrival.

LOCATION AND ACCESSIBILITY

Baltimore's strategic location on the Eastern Seaboard places it within easy driving distance of Washington, D.C. (35 miles); Philadelphia (100 miles); and New York City (185 miles). The metropolitan area is serviced by a network of modern highways including the Baltimore Beltway (I-695), which circles the city and connects with the Baltimore-Washington Parkway (MD-295), I-70, I-83, and I-195, and the John F. Kennedy Highway (I-95).

DIRECTIONS

Southbound

From New York City – I-95 South to I-695 West (Baltimore Beltway) towards Towson. Follow I-695 to Exit 17 (Security Boulevard – West). Follow Security Boulevard to the end and CMS' main entrance will be located on your right.

From Central Pennsylvania – I-83 South to I-695 East (Baltimore Beltway) towards Glen Burnie. Follow I-695 to Exit 17 (Security Boulevard – West). Follow Security Boulevard to the end and CMS' main entrance will be located on your right.

Northbound

From Washington, D.C. – I-95 North to I-695 West (Baltimore Beltway) towards Towson. Follow I-695 to Exit 17 (Security Boulevard – West). Follow Security Boulevard to the end and CMS’ main entrance will be located on your right.

From BWI (Baltimore Washington International Airport) – Baltimore and Washington Parkway (MD-295) to I-695 West (Baltimore Beltway) towards Towson to Exit 17 (Security Boulevard – West). Follow Security Boulevard to the end and CMS’ main entrance will be located on your right.

AMTRAK

Our city is served by AMTRAK which is located at Pennsylvania Station, five minutes north of the downtown area. The fast moving Acela has brought back the grand age of trains between Baltimore, Washington, Philadelphia, and New York. The MARC commuter train operates weekdays along the Baltimore/Washington corridor with two lines that leave from Washington’s Union Station and arrive in Baltimore at either Camden or Penn Stations. Taxi or bus service should be available at these locations for transport to CMS.

BWI AIRPORT

Baltimore/Washington International Airport (BWI) is approximately ten miles, a short twenty-minute ride to CMS. The taxi fare from the airport to CMS is approximately \$30 and BWI Super Shuttle door-to-door van service is available. To arrange service from or to BWI, reservations must be made at least 24 hours in advance by calling 1-800-BLUE-VAN (1-800-258-3826). Fare is \$27 each way; each additional passenger is \$12.

CAR RENTAL

The majority of care rental agencies listed below service BWI Airport:

Alamo	Budget	Enterprise*	National
Avis*	Dollar*	Hertz*	Thrifty*

*Provides cars with hand controls.

TO PARTICIPATE BY AUDIO CONFERENCE

Dial: 1-800-779-1508 & Reference Conference ID: REHAB

Note: TTY Communications Relay Services are available for the Hearing Impaired. For TTY services dial 7-1-1 or 1-800-855-2880 and for Internet Relay services go to <http://www.consumer.att.com/relay/which/index.html>. A Relay Communications Assistant will help.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Julie M. Stankivic at (410) 786-5725.