

CMS Special Open Door Forum: Revising the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Process

Wednesday, October 27, 2004
2:00-4:00 PM (Eastern Time)

The Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) was established in 1978 to provide a standardized coding system for describing the specific items and services provided in the delivery of health care. Such coding is necessary for Medicare, Medicaid, and other health insurance programs to ensure that insurance claims are processed in an orderly and consistent manner. Initially, use of the codes was voluntary, but with the implementation of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) use of the HCPCS for transactions involving health care information became mandatory.

Recent improvements revising the process HCPCS uses to update the code sets for payment of health care items and services will help get new technologies to patients more quickly. To accommodate these improvements, along with the pending new changes in the HCPCS coding system, the revised HCPCS coding process will be phased in over the next 18 months. The first change in the process is an earlier application deadline of January 3, 2005. This change will permit expanded opportunities for public comment on preliminary coding decisions compared to the current coding update schedule.

CMS invites you to attend this Special Open Door Forum on Revising the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Process. At this meeting we hope to discuss many of the new changes to the HCPCS process, like the appeals process and public notice of decisions, as well as the new HCPCS Code Application form. Specifically, the points we are looking to cover in discussion:

- Expansion of the Public Meetings
- Appeals Process
- Public Notice of Decisions
- Revision of the HCPCS Code Application Form
- Elimination of Requirement for Marketing Data for Drugs
- Reduction in Marketing Data for Non-drug items
- Consideration of national Medicaid program operating needs

For more background, please refer to our press release:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/media/press/release.asp?Counter=1225>

Open Door Participation Instructions:

There are 2 ways to participate, by phone or "in-person".

1. To participate by phone:

Dial: **1-800-837-1935** & Reference Conference ID: **1212719**

Persons participating by phone do not need to RSVP.

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 click here <http://www.consumer.att.com/relay/which/index.html>.

A Relay Communications Assistant will help

2. To participate in-person:

If you intend to participate in person, **RSVP is required:**

Please send a reply to this email by close of business Friday, October 22nd to

SpecialODF@cms.hhs.gov.

Please include "**HCPCS**" in the subject line of your message, and send us the following information:

- a) Your full name
- b) Your organization or representation
- c) Your contact information (phone and email)
- d) Special needs information

Location information:

ADDRESS:

CMS Single Site Building
Multipurpose Room
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244

Map & Directions: <http://cmsnet.cms.hhs.gov/hpages/ocsq/cmsdirections-north.htm>

ENCORE: 1-800-642-1687

"Encore" is a recording of this call that can be accessed by dialing 1-800-642-1687 and entering the Conf. ID # **1212719**.

The recording begins on Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2004 and expires after 4 business days.

For automatic emails of Open Door Forum schedule updates (Listserv registration) and to view Frequently Asked Questions please visit our website at:

www.cms.hhs.gov/opendoor

