

May Website Updates

Accomplishments

4/21/06: MMA Section 936(b)(1) - Requirements for Establishing and Maintaining Medicare Billing Privileges and Provider Enrollment Process

CMS published a final rule (CMS-6002-F) that is part of the Administration's anti-fraud and abuse efforts. It gives CMS the authority to enroll and re-enroll providers, with time frames for re-enrollment. The rule also responds to comments received on the proposed rule and implements section 936 of the MMA, which establishes deadlines for action on enrollments and renewals.

5/1/06: MMA Section 302 - Competitive Acquisition for Certain Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Prosthetic, Orthotics, and Supplies (CMS-1270-P)

CMS published a proposed rule that would create national competitive bidding that will provide a program for using market forces to set Medicare payment amounts. This rule will also create incentives for suppliers to provide quality items and services, while at the same time providing Medicare with reasonable prices for payment. This is required by MMA Section 302.

5/19/06: MMA Section 731 - Improvements in National and Local Coverage Determination (LCD) Process to Respond to Changes in Technology

CMS issued a manual instruction (CR 4233) that describes the CMS process for evaluation of "new" LCDs developed after June 19, 2006. When a Medicare contractor begins developing a new LCD and believes the topic may be appropriate as an NCD, the contractor medical director (CMD) should use the LCD evaluation criteria to make this determination. If the topic is appropriate, it will be forwarded to the 731 Advisory Group for NCD consideration. This is required by MMA Section 731.

5/23/06: MMA Section 302- Competitive Acquisition for Certain Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Prosthetic, Orthotics, and Supplies (CMS-1270-P)

CMS hosted a Special Open Door Forum (ODF) to discuss the CMS proposed rule to improve Medicare's payment for certain durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS) through a new competitive acquisition program. This proposed rule was published on May 1, 2006. CMS provided a brief overview of the provisions in the proposed rule.

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What to Expect

Notice: MMA Section 942 - Public Meeting for New Clinical Laboratory Tests

This notice (CMS-1324-N) announces a public meeting on 7/17/06 to discuss payment determinations for specific new Physicians' Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes for clinical laboratory tests. The meeting provides a forum for interested parties to make oral presentations and submit written comments on the new codes that will be included in Medicare's clinical laboratory fee schedule for CY 2007. The discussion will be directed toward technical issues relating to payment determinations for a specified list of new clinical laboratory codes.

Targeted Release: Second Quarter of CY 2006