

August Website Updates

Accomplishments

8/1/06 - MMA Section 302(b): Competitive Bidding Demonstration

CMS issued a manual issuance (CR 5205) that provides instructions for the implementation of a laboratory competitive bidding demonstration. This is required by MMA Section 302(b).

8/4/06 - MMA Section 413(b): Medicare Incentive Payment Program Improvements for Physician Scarcity

CMS issued a manual issuance (CR 5237) that provides an annual update for the Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) bonus payment. This is required by MMA Section 413(b).

8/4/06 - MMA Section 935: Recovery of Overpayments

CMS issued a manual issuance (CR 3878) that will enhance the Multi Carrier System (MCS) to enable payments to be reduced by the amount of the corresponding outstanding account receivables. This is required by MMA Section 935.

8/8/06 - MMA Section 1860D-4: Physicians' Referrals to Health Care Entities with Which They Have Financial Relationships – E-Prescribing Exception

CMS published a final rule (CMS-1303-F) that creates an exception to the physician self-referral prohibition for certain non-monetary remuneration related to electronic prescribing. This is required by Section 1860D-4 of the MMA.

8/8/06 - Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System Changes and Calendar Year 2007 Payment Rates

This proposed rule (CMS-1506-P) revises the Medicare hospital outpatient prospective payment system to implement applicable statutory requirements and changes arising from our continuing experience with this system and to implement certain related provisions of the MMA. In addition, the proposed rule describes proposed changes to the amounts and factors used to determine the payment rates for Medicare hospital outpatient services paid under the prospective payment system.

8/11/06 - MMA Section 306: Demonstration Project for Use of Recovery Audit Contractors

CMS issued a manual issuance (CR 5226) that updates the procedures for audit contractors' communication with the recovery audit contractors. This is required by MMA Section 306.

8/16/06 - MMA Section 302: Solicitation for Organizations to Accredit DME Suppliers

CMS published a notice (CMS-6040-N) that solicits accrediting organizations to accredit DME suppliers by the first phase of DME Implementation (January 2007). Section 302 of the MMA required CMS to issue these quality standards for DME suppliers.

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8/18/06 - MMA Section 303(d): Payment Reform for Covered Outpatient Drugs and Biologicals

CMS issued a manual issuance (CR 5259) that describes the process for adding Not Otherwise Classified (NOC) Drugs to the Competitive Acquisition Program (CAP) beginning in 2007.

8/18/06 - MMA Section 302: Prospective Payment System for Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities for FY 2007

CMS published a final rule (CMS-1540-F) that updates rates for the prospective payment system for inpatient rehabilitation facilities for FY 2007. This rule establishes certain requirements related to competitive acquisition for durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS). This rule also establishes requirements for accreditation for DMEPOS suppliers as required by MMA Section 302.

What to Expect

9/13/06- Special Open Door Forum (ODF) - Medicare Beneficiary Ombudsman

CMS will host a Medicare Beneficiary Ombudsman ODF. This forum will provide an opportunity for beneficiaries, their caregivers, and advocates to publicly interact with the Medicare Beneficiary Ombudsman and discuss ways to improve the systems and processes within the Medicare program.

Notice: Frontier Extended Stay Clinic Demonstration (CMS-5030-N)

This notice establishes a demonstration project under which frontier extended stay clinics in isolated rural areas are treated as providers of items and services under the Medicare program. This is required by Section 434(a) of the MMA.

Targeted Release: Third Quarter of CY 2006