

October Website Updates

Accomplishments

8/29/2006: MMA Section 434(a) - Frontier Extended Stay Clinic Demonstration

CMS published a notice (CMS-5030-N) that will provide added financial support to small health clinics. 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.

9/1/2006: MMA Section 732- Extension of Treatment of Certain Physician Pathology Services Under Medicare

CMS issued a manual issuance (CR 5210) that allows for the billing of a technical component of certain pathology services furnished by an independent laboratory for an inpatient or outpatient covered hospital. This is required by Section 732 of the MMA.

9/6/2006: MMA Section 646 -Medicare Health Care Quality Demonstration Programs

CMS published a notice (CMS-5043-N) that announced a three year demonstration program to examine whether allowing hospitals to provide financial incentives for physicians to support better care can improve patient outcomes without increasing costs. This program is known as the Physician –Hospital Collaboration Demonstration (PHCD), and is authorized under Section 646 of the MMA.

9/11/2006: MMA Section 911- Increased Flexibility in Medicare Administration

CMS issued a manual issuance (CR 5291) that provides a one-time notification for contractors in certain jurisdictions for the DME and MAC services workload.

9/18/2006: MMA Section 811- Income-Related Reduction in Part B Premium Subsidy

CMS published a notice (CMS-8030-N) that incorporates Section 811 of the MMA, which reduces the Part B premium subsidy beginning January 1, 2007. This will apply to beneficiaries whose incomes exceed certain threshold.

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What to Expect

Final Rule: Competitive Acquisition for Certain Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (CMS-1270-F)

This final rule will establish durable medical equipment (DME) competitive bidding. National competitive bidding will provide a program for using market forces to set Medicare payment amounts. This 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 Section 302 of the MMA.

Fourth Quarter of CY 2006

Proposed Rule: Limitation on Recoupment of Overpayments (CMS-6025-P)

This proposed rule defines the overpayments to which the limitation applies, how the limitation works in concert with the appeals process, and the change in Medicare's obligation to pay interest to a provider or supplier whose appeal is successful at levels above the Qualified Independent Contractor (QIC). This is required by Section 935 of the MMA.

Fourth Quarter of CY 2006

Final Rule: Changes to the Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System and Calendar Year 2007 Payment Rates (CMS-1506-F)

This rule 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 Medicare MMA.

Fourth Quarter of CY 2006

Proposed Rule: Use of Repayment Plans (CMS-6032-P)

This rule proposes to grant a provider or a supplier an extended repayment schedule under certain terms and conditions. This rule will establish criteria and procedures to apply this requirement and to define the concepts of "hardship" and "extreme hardship."

This is required by Section 935 of the MMA.

Fourth Quarter of CY 2006

Final Rule: Enhanced DSH Treatment for Certain Hospitals (CMS-2198-F)

This rule will require states to report additional information about their disproportionate share hospital (DSH) programs to their annual report. This is required by Section 1001(d) of the MMA.

Fourth Quarter of CY 2006