

Provider Partnership Program (PPP) E-mail Notification Archives

December 10, 2004

Hello everyone! I would first like to extend a warm welcome to our newest Provider Partners. We've been busy trying to fit in as many in-person visits and conference calls as we can before the winter weather sets in, and I appreciate everyone making time to meet with us among all of the seasonal chaos. And now the news.....

Medlearn Matters Articles

Because there is so much end-of-the-year activity going on, especially activities related to MMA provisions with 2005 implementation dates, I thought I would share some of the latest Medlearn Matters articles that might be of particular interest to you. Please take special note of **SE0450 regarding MMA provisions for rural health providers--I have attached a copy of the article for your convenience.** As always, these articles can be found on the Medlearn Matters web page at: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/matters/>

SE0450 - MMA - Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 Information for Medicare Rural Health Providers, Suppliers, and Physicians

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/matters/mmarticles/2004/SE0450.pdf>

MM3487 - Updated Billing Instructions for Rural Health Clinics and Federally Qualified Health Centers

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/matters/mmarticles/2005/MM3487.pdf>

MM3429 - MMA - Changes to the Laboratory National Coverage Determination (NCD) Edit Software for January 2005

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/matters/mmarticles/2005/MM3429.pdf>

MM3051 - MMA-Special Rules for Critical Access Hospital (CAH) Outpatient Billing Revised: 12/3/2004

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/matters/mmarticles/2004/MM3051.pdf>

MM3540 - Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS): Misclassified Drugs and Biologicals, Ganciclovir Long Act Implant, Bcg Live Intravesical Vac, and Gallium ga 67; Adjustments Due to Misclassification

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/matters/mmarticles/2004/MM3540.pdf>

MM3274 - Unsolicited/Voluntary Refunds

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/matters/mmarticles/2005/MM3274.pdf>

MM3469 - Change in the Type of Bill for Billing Diagnostic and

Screening Mammographies

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/matters/mmarticles/2005/MM3469.pdf>

MM3231 - Minimum Number of Drug Pricing Files That Must Be Maintained Online for Medicare

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/matters/mmarticles/2005/MM3231.pdf>

MM3585 - MMA-Hospice Pre-Election Evaluation and Counseling Services

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/matters/mmarticles/2005/MM3585.pdf>

MM3541 - MMA - Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Prospective Payment System (IPF PPS) Implementation

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/matters/mmarticles/2005/MM3541.pdf>

MM3554 - New ESRD Composite Payment Rates Effective January 1, 2005

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/matters/mmarticles/2005/MM3554.pdf>

MM3583 - January 2005 Outpatient Prospective Payment System Code Editor (OPPS OCE) Specifications Version 6.0

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/matters/mmarticles/2005/MM3583.pdf>

SE0451 - Guidance Regarding Elimination of Standard Paper Remittance (SPR) Advice Notices in the Old Format Revised: 12/06/2004

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/matters/mmarticles/2004/SE0451.pdf>

SE0462 - MMA - Drug Administration Coding Changes and Reimbursement

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/matters/mmarticles/2004/SE0462.pdf>

Remember that you can get electronic notification whenever new Medlearn Matters articles are posted by joining the Medlearn Matters listserv at

www.cms.hhs.gov/maillinglists .

CMS Will Be Reopening the New Technology Add-On Payment Application

Several manufacturers have contacted the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) expressing confusion over the deadline for new technology add-on payment applications for FY 2006 in the inpatient hospital prospective payment system (IPPS). As a result, CMS is extending the IPPS deadline for New Technology Add-on Payment Applications. **CMS WILL BE REOPENING THE NEW TECHNOLOGY ADD-ON PAYMENT APPLICATION PROCESS UNTIL DECEMBER 30, 2004.**

Application Information:

1) For more information or to apply for add-on status, please see the following link:
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/providers/hipps/newtech.asp>.

2) Please note that the revised due date to submit an application and tracking form for new technology add-on payment for FY 2006 is December 30, 2004. All data must be submitted to CMS no later than January 14, 2005.

For a complete reading on Add-On Payments for New Services and Technologies, please view the IPPS final rule published on August 11, 2004. The IPPS final rule can be downloaded from our web site at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/providers/hipps/frnotices.asp>

The effective date of updates listed in this notice is December 9, 2004.

Please feel free to contact Meredith Walz (410-786-9421) or Michael Treitel (410-786-4552) if you have any additional questions.

HHS Announces Regions to Administer New Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit and Medicare Advantage Program

Multi-State Plans Will Provide More Choices and Savings To Medicare Beneficiaries

HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson announced Monday, December 6th that Medicare is taking another step in bringing more choices, better benefits and more savings to millions of Medicare beneficiaries by establishing the regions for prescription drug plans and Medicare Advantage Preferred Provider Organization (PPOs) health plans beginning in 2006. To help ensure that all Medicare beneficiaries have the opportunity to take advantage of the Medicare prescription drug benefit, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) established 26 regions for Medicare Advantage Preferred Provider Organizations and 34 regions for prescription drug plans.

Secretary Thompson said the new regions were designed based on extensive public input and expert analysis in order to help people with Medicare get the best health care coverage options possible.

"Our decisions about regions reflect our goal of making sure that all 42 million Medicare beneficiaries will have access to high-quality, affordable drug coverage and health plan choices," said CMS Administrator Mark B. McClellan, M.D., Ph.D.

To read the complete HHS press release, including details of the factors used in determining the regions, please go to:

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2004pres/20041206.html>

For further details on the regions for the Medicare Advantage regional plans, and for the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan regions, please visit the CMS web site at:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medicarereform/mmaregions/>

Please stay abreast of upcoming Special Open Door Forums related to specific details of the new Medicare Advantage and Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit plans, by visiting the CMS web pages at: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/opendoor/>

New Medicare Learning Network Product

The downloadable Spanish version of the Medicare Resident & New Physician Guide (seventh edition, 2003) is now available from the Medicare Learning Network Web site at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/MRNPSpanishGuide.pdf>.

Redistribution of Unused Resident Positions

To view Questions and Answers (Qs and As) concerning the application process for Section 422 of the MMA, "Redistribution of Unused Resident Positions," and information concerning the **extension of the application deadline from December 1, 2004 to December 15, 2004**, go to

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/providers/hipps/applicationprocess.pdf> on the CMS Website.

We're still working on the detailed provider education materials for Medicare Preventive Services--please stay tuned!

I hope you have a great weekend!

Valerie

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December 23, 2004

Hello everyone and Happy Holidays! Just a few news items before I go off to celebrate the holidays--I hope you all get a chance to do the same ~

Average Sales Price Pricing File

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has announced the January 2005 Average Sales Price (ASP) Pricing File for Medicare Part B Drugs. For important information and the actual payment amounts, visit the CMS website at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/providers/drugs/asp.asp>

Payments for Oxygen & Oxygen Equipment

In accordance with section 302(c) of the MMA, Medicare's monthly payment amounts for oxygen & oxygen equipment for 2005 are to include a reduction based on the percentage difference between Medicare's 2002 monthly payment amounts for each state and the median 2002 Federal Employee Health Benefit (FEHB) plan price reported by the OIG. The OIG has alerted CMS that they will need to collect additional information before the FEHB medians for oxygen and oxygen equipment and portable oxygen equipment are finalized. Therefore, Medicare claims for oxygen and oxygen equipment and portable oxygen equipment furnished on or after January 1, 2005, will be held by the Medicare contractors. To ensure Medicare's payments are accurate, these claims will be held until the 2005 fee schedule amounts can be computed based on information CMS expects to receive from the OIG by January 15, 2005. This is fully explained at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/suppliers/dmepos/>

Notice of Request for Information from Vendors for Medicare Pt B Drugs & Biologicals

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services recently issued a Request for Information (RFI) for potential vendors on the Competitive Acquisition Program (CAP) for Medicare Part B Drugs and Biologicals authorized by Section 303 (d) of the MMA. This RFI is intended to assess potential vendors' interest in bidding on contracts to supply drugs and biologicals for the CAP. Only potential vendors should respond to the RFI. This Listserv notice is for information purposes only, for individuals and organizations who are not potential vendors. CMS will use the RFI responses as we proceed with the CAP planning and implementation. The deadline for submitting your responses is January 18, 2005.

The CAP RFI can be found at the following link:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/contracts/caprfi.asp>

Provider Satisfaction Survey

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) measures provider satisfaction with the services provided by Medicare Fee-for-Service (FFS) Contractors.

The Medicare Contractor Provider Satisfaction Survey (MCPSS), a new initiative sponsored by CMS, will collect data on provider satisfaction with and perceptions about the services provided by Medicare FFS claims processing Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs) and Carriers. The MCPSS will give providers the opportunity to rate their Contractor on

seven administrative functions: provider communications, provider inquiries, claims processing, appeals, provider enrollment, medical review, and provider reimbursement.

A pilot survey of the MCPSS will be sent to a sample of approximately 7,400 Medicare FFS providers beginning in January 2005. Sampled providers will be able to access the survey instrument on a secure Internet web site or may request a paper copy and submit their responses via mail or fax. All information collected will be kept completely confidential, and individual providers will not be identified. Data collection for the pilot will continue through March 2005.

CMS values the opinions of the Medicare physician and provider community and understands the important role that FFS Contractors play in representing the Medicare program to providers. The MCPSS represents an important opportunity for providers to be heard. If selected as a provider to participate in the pilot, please take the time to complete and submit the survey as soon as possible.

For questions regarding the MCPSS, please contact the MCPSS Information Line at 1-888-863-3561 or MCPSS@westat.com. For further information and updates, please visit <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/providers/mcpss/default.asp>.

Once again, my warmest and best wishes to all of you for a wonderful holiday season and a happy and successful New Year!! I look forward to working with you through our continued partnership.

Valerie

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December 29, 2004

We recently added another drug for psoriasis-- Enbrel .

If you can send out letters to the dermatologists, neurologists, internists, Family Practice docs and GPs, that would be great.

This is to let you know that the Medicare Replacement Drug Demonstration has added two (2) more drugs to its list of covered drugs. Enbrel is now covered under the demonstration for Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriatic Arthritis and Psoriasis. (Just a reminder that my note from 12/29/04 indicated that Raptiva is also covered for Psoriasis.) In addition, we have added coverage of HP Acthar Gel for patients with recurring or remitting acute exacerbations or painful flare-ups associated with multiple sclerosis.

Attached is the most recent drug list with these new drugs included. You can visit the Drug Demonstration web site at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/researchers/demos/drugcoveredemo.asp> for the list of drugs and much more information about the Demonstration.

And remember that there are still plenty of slots open with rolling admission--and no waiting period. So please help spread the word!

Best regards,

Valerie

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