

Provider Partnership Program (PPP) E-mail Notification Archives

July 9, 2004

Hello everyone and a warm welcome to our newest partners. I have very much enjoyed our most recent partnering meetings and am happy to send you the following information:

Medlearn Matters

A Special Edition Medlearn Matters article concerning the **Medicare Replacement Drug Demonstration** (MRDD) (MMA Section 641) is now available at:
www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/matters/mmarticles/2004/SE0443.pdf

CMS Draft Policy Monitoring of Erythropoietin for Beneficiaries with End Stage Renal Disease

Please see the attached press release announcing CMS' draft Epo monitoring policy. The draft policy can be found at
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/coverage/8b.asp>.

Lab Public Meeting: Payment New Clinical Laboratory Tests

Date: Monday, July 26, 2004 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM EDT.
On-site check-in will begin at 9:30 AM

Place: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Auditorium
7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21244

The meeting is open to the general public to make recommendations on the assignment of payment levels for new codes to be included in the 2005 Medicare Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule. The meeting announcement is published in the Federal Register on Friday May 28, 2004 at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/paymentsystems/clinlabsum05A.pdf>, pages 30658 - 30659.

As discussed in more detail in the Federal Register notice, this meeting is intended to provide expert input on the nature of the new test codes and receive recommendations to either "cross-walk" or "gap-fill" for payment.

REGISTRATION

To register, go to <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/events/event.asp?id=50>. There you will have access to the registration form. Please complete your registration by July 22, 2004. A confirmation will be sent upon receipt of the registration by CMS. Individuals who wish to make a presentation to recommend assignment of payment for one or more of the new test codes should complete this information on the registration form, prepare a brief presentation (not to exceed 15 minutes), and provide three written copies at the time of presentation. Presenters may also make copies available for up to 50 meeting participants.

SECURITY

This meeting will be held in a Federal government building; therefore, Federal security measures are applicable. Photo identification and registration confirmation will be required to enter the building. Vehicles are inspected, at entrance to the grounds, and persons must pass through a metal detector when entering the building. Directions and other information for visitors to the building are available at www.cms.hhs.gov/about/agency/visiting.

Also, individuals may listen to this public meeting by dialing 877-357-7851, and referencing conference ID number 8402656. Registration is not required for audio listening. After the on-site presentations, a question and answer period will be opened to both the participants in the room and the audio listeners. The moderator of the meeting will monitor the question and answer period.

Please view the attachment for a list of the newly created codes that require recommendations on the assignment of payment levels in order to be included in the clinical laboratory fee schedule.

If you have further questions, contact Anita Greenberg at 410-786-4601 or agreenberg@cms.hhs.gov.

I hope everyone has a wonderful weekend!

Valerie

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July 28, 2004

MEDICARE PROPOSES PAYMENT RULE TO PROVIDE NEW PREVENTIVE BENEFITS AND RAISE PHYSICIAN PAYMENTS FOR 2005

As part of its ongoing efforts to modernize Medicare, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) today proposed new benefits to help Medicare beneficiaries stay healthier and get better access to important preventive medical services, as well as to implement an across the board 1.5 percent increase in payment rates for physicians taking care of Medicare beneficiaries.

This rule went on display today at the Federal Register and will be published on Wednesday, August 5, 2004. Comment period begins on July 27 (as of day of display), with the comment period ending September 24, 2004.

The new payments are part of the agency's Physician Fee Schedule rule for 2005.

The new preventive benefits, which were authorized by the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA), are the heart of the initiative to make Medicare a modern prevention-focused program.

You will find the CMS Press Release, Fact sheet and Drug Pricing Table (used for payment impacts that was issued today) by clicking on the corresponding links below.

CMS Press Release

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/media/press/release.asp?Counter=1134>

Fact Sheet

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/media/press/release.asp?Counter=1135>

Drug Pricing Table

See attachment.

Home Health PPS Update

To view a correction to the "Medicare Program; Home Health Prospective Payment System Rate Update for Calendar Year 2005", please go to the home health provider web page on the CMS website at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/providers/hha/> and click on the first highlight.

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July 30, 2004

Hello everyone ~ I don't know about you, but I think the time for lazy summer days has passed--there's a lot happening! Take a look.

Help for Uninsured Patients

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced a new program to provide \$1 billion over four years to help hospitals and other providers recoup the costs of providing needed medical care to uninsured patients who cannot pay their hospital bills regardless of their citizenship status. CMS is seeking public comments, through August 16, 2004, concerning the policies and process to make these payments. A Special Open Door Forum will be held on August 2, 2004 at 2 pm to discuss CMS's proposed implementation approach.

To view the policy paper titled "Proposed Implementation Approach: Federal Funding of Emergency Health Services Furnished to Undocumented Aliens: Federal Fiscal Years 2005 Through 2008," go to the following link:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/providers/mma1011.pdf> .

For further information, please visit the CMS website at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/media/press/release.asp?Counter=1123> .

SNF Payment Rates

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) today announced an update to the Medicare payment rates for skilled nursing facilities that will result in an estimated \$440 million increase in Medicare payments in fiscal year 2005. The increase reflects a 2.8 percent annual update in payment rates.

For further information, please read the attached press release.

Rural Facilities Get An Important Boost In Payment Rates

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services announced today, hospitals that serve Medicare beneficiaries who require intensive inpatient rehabilitation are slated to receive a 3.1 percent increase in their payment rates for fiscal year 2005, beginning October 1, 2004. Aggregate payments to these facilities in fiscal year 2005 are projected to be \$5.7 billion, up 5.6 percent from a projected \$5.4 billion in FY 2004.

For further information, please view the attached press release.

New from The Medicare Learning Network

(1) The MLN is pleased to announce the release of a new Provider Education training tool, ***"Reference Guide for Medicare Physician & Supplier Billers "Helping Front Office Personnel Navigate Medicare Rules of Participation & Part B Claims Processing."*** This guide contains a variety of information to help billers submit accurate and timely Medicare claims. While providing historical and background information on Medicare Part A and Medicare Advantage, this guide is focused on providing information and procedures for fee-for-service physician and suppliers to submit Medicare Part B claims. You may obtain a copy of the guide by ordering on-line at www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn.

(2) The following publications have been updated and are currently available online at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/pubs.asp> .

"Medicare Preventive Services: Osteoporosis, Diabetes and Prostate Cancer ~ A Guide to Billing Bone Density Studies, Diabetes Self Management Training Services and Prostate Screening Services" (Updated July 2004). This publication contains information about Medicare billing on Osteoporosis Bone Density Studies, Diabetes Self-Management Training Services and Prostate Cancer Screening Services. It explains Medicare claims filing requirements and will assist health care providers in building their practices by promoting wellness.

"Medicare Preventive Services: Adult Immunizations ~ A Guide to Billing Influenza and Pneumococcal Vaccinations" (Updated July 2004). This publication will help you better understand the importance of adult immunizations and identify ways to increase the immunization rates in your healthcare community.

More to come in the very near future. I hope you all enjoy a nice weekend!

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