

## **Provider Partnership Program (PPP) E-mail Notification Archives**

April 22, 2005

***Hello everyone! As you can see, CMS has recently transitioned to a new e-mail system and it's taken a little while to adjust--but I'm back in business and happy to send you the latest on Medicare Drug Coverage educational materials as well as hospital quality reporting and graduate medical education. Remember to feel free to reprint our Medlearn Matters articles in your association's newsletters and any other place you think they will be welcomed!***

***One more thing--I want to thank everyone who took the time out of their busy schedules to review our Remittance Advice Guide and our Preventive Services Guide. Your comments were most helpful and we are working hard to make the final products available to you in the very near future.***

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### **MEDICARE DRUG COVERAGE RESOURCES**

The third Medlearn Matters article in our series of articles on Medicare's new drug coverage is now available. You can access it on our Medlearn Matters web page at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/matters/mmarticles/2005/SE0520.pdf> . I have also attached a copy to this note for your convenience. Also, we now have a web page on Medlearn dedicated to the new Medicare drug coverage. The URL is [www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/drugcoverage.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/drugcoverage.asp) . We sincerely hope we can count on you to link to this page from your association's website so that your members can have easy access to all CMS drug coverage information, including the Medlearn Matters articles. We also hope you'll consider reprinting these articles in your newsletters and send notices via your listservs when we release new articles. As always, we can't do it without you and we very much appreciate the tremendous assistance you give CMS in helping to spread the word about Medicare!

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### **INFORMATION ON HOSPITAL QUALITY NOW AVAILABLE**

Americans will be better able to compare the quality of care in nearly all of the nation's hospitals using quality information now available from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Hospital Quality Alliance (HQA) for the first time ever. The new information provides consumers with standardized assessments of the care that nearly 4,200 hospitals across the country provide to all adult patients, based on valid and reliable measures that have been shown to reflect quality of care. Hospital Compare is available on the Internet at [www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov](http://www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov) or [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov). Consumers without web access can call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) to get the same information on hospital quality.

To view the press release: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/media/press/release.asp?Counter=1409>

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CMS has made recent clarifications in payment policy regarding Graduate Medical Education. We have posted information about GME payments for residents in off-hospital campus locations at: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/providers/hipps/gme.asp> .

***I hope everyone has a wonderful weekend!***

***With best regards,***

**Valerie**

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