

U.S. House and Senate Notification
Tuesday, February 16, 2010

To: Congressional Health Staff

From: Amy Hall
Director, Office of Legislation
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Subject: CMS Releases 2009 Improper Medicare FFS Payments Report

On Friday, February 5, 2010, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the 2009 Improper Medicare Fee-for-Service Payments report. The report is available under “CERT Reports” on the CMS website at www.cms.hhs.gov/cert.

In response to recommendations made by the HHS Office of Inspector General, CMS significantly revised and improved the methodology used to calculate the Medicare fee-for-service error rate for 2009. Due to these changes, CMS needed additional time to ensure the 2009 report accurately explained the changes and the associated impact on the error rate.

CMS established the Comprehensive Error Rate Testing (CERT) program to calculate a national paid claims error rate for all of the Medicare fee-for-service programs. The CERT program calculates the error rates for all Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) and, until the transition to MACs is completed, the CERT program will also report on Carriers and Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs).

More information about the CERT program is available at www.cms.hhs.gov/cert.

If you have any questions about these letters, please contact the CMS Office of Legislation.

Thank you.