U.S. House and Senate Notification  
Thursday, February 18, 2010

To: Congressional Health Staff

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

Subject: CMS Releases Guidance on Implementation of MIPPA Provisions Related to Dually Eligible Beneficiaries

Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services released a State Medicaid Director (SMD) letter that provides guidance on the implementation of certain provisions of the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (MIPPA), P.L. 110-275. Many of these provisions are intended to remove barriers to applications for the Medicare Part D Low-Income Subsidy (LIS) and the Medicare Savings Programs (MSP). MIPPA provisions explained in this guidance include:

- Extension of the Qualifying Individual program;
- Application of LIS resources tests to MSP;
- Eliminating barriers to MSP enrollment;
- Eliminating application of estate recovery to Medicare cost-sharing benefits;
- Exemptions from income and resources for determining eligibility for LIS; and
- Language translation of the model MSP application;

The SMD letter also urges States to consider strategies for improving and streamlining opportunities for eligible seniors to enroll in other federal programs for low-income people, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), in coordination with the Medicaid eligibility process and to streamline opportunities for eligible seniors to enroll in these other benefits. The SMD letter also discusses opportunities for States to coordinate the definition of family size that is used for LIS and MSP determinations in order to reduce administrative burden.

The SMD letter can be view on the CMS website at:  
http://www.cms.hhs.gov/SMDL/SMD/list.asp

If you have any questions about this announcement, please contact the CMS Office of Legislation. Thank you.