



MLN Matters®



Information for Medicare Fee-For-Service Health Care Professionals

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Hurricanes Katrina and Rita – Frequently Asked Questions – Medicare Issues

Note: This article was updated on February 27, 2013, to reflect current Web addresses. All other information remains unchanged.

Provider Types Affected

All providers who are affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita or serving Medicare patients affected by those hurricanes

Key Points

This article contains important information about Medicare issues resulting from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has posted pertinent information at <http://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Emergency/index.html> on the CMS website. This website is updated on a daily basis.

The information on this site includes the following:

Hurricane Katrina Electronic Mailing List

This is an electronic mailing list service for those interested in receiving news automatically via e-mail from the CMS (<http://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Aboutwebsite/index.html>).

Hurricane Katrina: What Government Is Doing

This Department of Homeland Security website (<http://www.fema.gov/response-recovery/about-hurricane-katrina>) focuses on the government's response to Hurricane Katrina - including links to:

- How to Get Help;
- Donations and Volunteering;
- Finding Friends and Information;
- Health and Safety; and
- A link to Hurricane Katrina-related information in Spanish.

Disclaimer

This article was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This article may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents.

Fact Sheet: CMS Actions to Help Beneficiaries, Providers in Katrina Stricken Areas

This link (http://www.cms.gov/apps/media/fact_sheets.asp) leads to specific Medicare-related hurricane relief information for healthcare providers who furnish medical services related to Hurricane Katrina.

Phone Numbers for State Medical Assistance Offices

This Web page (<http://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/provider-compliance-interactive-map/index.html>) contains contact information for all states; related websites; and resources (a download of the Helpful Contacts tool).

Hurricane Information from the Department of Health and Human Services

Hurricane Katrina Medicare Contractor and CMS Regional Office Contacts

This web page informs Medicare providers about relevant contact points for those in the affected areas; and notifies providers about a list of Questions and Answers available online at <http://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/provider-compliance-interactive-map/index.html> on the CMS website.

Signed Waiver Under Section 1135 of the Social Security Act 9/4/2005

Section 1135 of the Social Security Act allows the Secretary of Health and Human Services to waive or modify certain Medicare, Medicaid, or State Children's Health Insurance Program requirements in order to protect the public health and welfare in times of national crisis. On Wednesday August 31, 2005, Secretary Michael Leavitt notified the Congress that he was invoking this authority, as a consequence of Hurricane Katrina, in order to protect the health and welfare of the public in areas impacted by this crisis. CMS is taking action consistent with this authority to ensure that the people in these areas receive all necessary health care services (http://www.cms.gov/Emergency/02_Hurricanes.asp#TopOfPage).

Hurricane Katrina Recovery Information from FirstGov.gov

Links (<http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/PublicSafety/Hurricane-Katrina-Recovery.shtml>) on this page include:

- Find Family and Friends;
- How to Get Help;
- Shelter and Housing for Survivors;
- Donate and Volunteer;
- Health and Safety;
- What Government is Doing; and
- Frequently Asked Questions.

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