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MLN Matters Number: MM6324

Related Change Request (CR) #: 6324

Related CR Release Date: January 16, 2009

Effective Date: September 30, 2008

Related CR Transmittal #: R4300TN

Implementation Date: February 17, 2009

Long Term Care Hospital (LTCH) Special Project

Provider Types Affected

Long Term Care Hospitals (LTCH) submitting claims to Medicare contractors (Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs) and/or Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs)) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries in LTCHs.

Provider Action Needed

This article is informational in nature and requires no provider action at this time. The article is based on Change Request (CR) 6324 to alert providers that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has outlined the requirements for an expanded review of LTCH admissions as required by recent legislation. CMS has selected a sampling contractor (AdvanceMed) to create the study universe of claims for this review. In addition, CMS has selected Wisconsin Physicians Service (WPS) to conduct the review. CR 6324 establishes communication procedures between the sampling contractor (AdvanceMed), LTCH Review Contractor Wisconsin Physicians Service (WPS), FIs, and MACS to avoid duplication of effort in these review processes.

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.

Background

In 2007, the Medicare, Medicaid, and State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) Extension Act (MMSEA), was enacted. The Act included a provision, (Section 114) that expanded review of medical necessity of admissions to long care hospitals and continued stays at such hospitals. The Act also requires error rate calculation, and disallowance of days of medically unnecessary care from the calculation of the LTCH average length of stay (ALOS) as a result of those reviews. For purposes of carrying out the above provision of the MMSEA, CMS must ensure that an appropriate framework for cooperation exists to facilitate the exchange of information and the establishment of communication procedures among the LTCH Sampling Contractor (AdvanceMed), LTCH Review Contractor (WPS), the FIs, and A/B/MACs. CR 6324 establishes this framework.

Additional Information

If you have questions or wish to obtain information regarding the results of a review, please contact your Medicare A/B MAC or FI at their toll-free number which may be found at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website.

The official instruction (CR6324) issued to your Medicare A/B MAC and/or FI is available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R4300TN.pdf> on the CMS website.

News Flash - It's Not Too Late to Get the Flu Shot. We are in the midst of flu season and a flu vaccine is still the best way to prevent infection and the complications associated with the flu. Re-vaccination is necessary each year because flu viruses change each year. So please encourage your Medicare patients who haven't already done so to get their annual flu shot--and don't forget to immunize yourself and your staff. Protect yourself, your patients, and your family and friends. **Get Your Flu Shot – Not the Flu! Remember** - Influenza vaccine plus its administration are covered Part B benefits. Note that influenza vaccine is NOT a Part D covered drug. Health care professionals and their staff can learn more about Medicare's coverage of the influenza vaccine and other Medicare Part B covered vaccines and related provider education resources created by the CMS Medicare Learning Network (MLN), by reviewing Special Edition *MLN Matters* article SE0838 at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0838.pdf> on the CMS website.

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