

Thursday, March 17, 2016

MLN Connects® Events

Medicare Shared Savings Program ACO: Preparing to Apply for 2017 Call — Registration Now Open
Open Payments 2016: Prepare to Review Reported Data Call — Registration Now Open
IMPACT Act: Data Element Library Call — Register Now
Medicare Shared Savings Program ACO Application Process Call — Registration Now Open
New Audio Recording and Transcript Available

Other CMS Events

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Medicare Learning Network® Publications and Multimedia

February 2016 Catalog Available
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Health Professional Shortage Area Physician Bonus Program Fact Sheet — Revised
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CMS Acting Administrator Andy Slavitt's Comments at HIMSS
HCAHPS: Measurement of the Patient Experience in Hospitals
It Is Still Influenza Season

MLN Connects® Events

Medicare Shared Savings Program ACO: Preparing to Apply for 2017 Call — Registration Now Open

Tuesday, April 5 from 1:30 to 3 pm ET

To Register: Visit [MLN Connects Event Registration](#). Space may be limited, register early.

During this call, CMS subject matter experts provide information on what you can do to prepare for the Medicare Shared Savings Program (Shared Savings Program) application process for the January 1, 2017, program start date. A question and answer session will follow the presentation.

We encourage call participants to review important information, dates, and materials on the [Shared Savings Program Application](#) webpage prior to the call.

Agenda:

- Introduction to the Shared Savings Program
- What is an Accountable Care Organization (ACO)?
- ACO organizational structure and governance
- ACO governing body template
- Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) 3-day waiver application information
- Antitrust and ACOs
- Application process for January 2017 starters

Target Audience: Potential 2017 Shared Savings Program initial applicants.

Continuing education credit may be awarded for participation in certain MLN Connects Calls. Visit the [Continuing Education Credit Information](#) webpage to learn more.

Open Payments 2016: Prepare to Review Reported Data Call — Registration Now Open

Tuesday, April 12 from 2:30-3:30

To Register: Visit [MLN Connects Event Registration](#). Space may be limited, register early.

Industry is currently submitting data to the Open Payments System on payments or transfers of value made to physicians and teaching hospitals during 2015. When data submission ends, physicians and teaching hospitals are given 45 days to review and dispute records attributed to them. In order to review the data, physicians and teaching hospitals need to register in the Open Payments system. The system is available for physician and teaching hospital registration. The review and dispute period will begin in April 2016 and last for 45 days. CMS will publish the 2015 payment data and updates to the 2013 and 2014 data on June 30, 2016.

Physicians and teaching hospitals, find out how to access the Open Payments system to review the accuracy of the data submitted about you before it is published on the CMS website. A question and answer session will follow the presentation.

Agenda:

- Overview of the Open Payments national transparency program
- Program timeline
- Critical deadlines for physicians and teaching hospitals to review and dispute data

Target Audience: Physicians, teaching hospitals and physician office staff.

This MLN Connects Call is being evaluated by CMS for CME and CEU continuing education credit (CE). Refer to the [call detail page](#) for more information.

IMPACT Act: Data Element Library Call — Register Now

Thursday, April 14 from 2 to 3 pm ET

To Register: Visit [MLN Connects Event Registration](#). Space may be limited, register early.

During this call, CMS subject matter experts discuss the development of the Data Element Library. A question and answer session will follow the presentation, including an opportunity for registrants to provide feedback on the Library.

The [Improving Medicare Post-Acute Care Transformation](#) (IMPACT) Act requires the reporting of standardized patient assessment data by Post-Acute Care (PAC) providers, including skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, and long-term care hospitals. It specifies that certain data elements must be standardized and interoperable to allow for the exchange and use of data among these PAC and other providers to facilitate coordinated care and improved beneficiary outcomes.

Agenda:

- Data Element Library: details, purpose, and overview of content
- Type of Library information that could be publicly available
- Value of reusing standardized data elements
- Updates on upcoming stakeholder engagement activities

Target Audience: PAC providers, health IT vendors, healthcare industry professionals, and other interested stakeholders.

Continuing education credit may be awarded for participation in certain MLN Connects Calls. Visit the [Continuing Education Credit Information](#) webpage to learn more.

Medicare Shared Savings Program ACO Application Process Call — Registration Now Open

Tuesday, April 19 from 1:30 to 3 pm ET

To Register: Visit [MLN Connects Event Registration](#). Space may be limited, register early.

During this call, CMS subject matter experts cover helpful tips to complete a successful application for the Medicare Shared Savings Program (Shared Savings Program). A question and answer session will follow the presentation.

We encourage call participants to review important information, dates, and materials on the [Shared Savings Program Application](#) webpage prior to the call.

Agenda:

- Accountable Care Organization (ACO) participant list and participant agreements
- ACO Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) affiliate list and SNF affiliate agreements (Track 3 ACOs only)
- Beneficiary assignment

Target Audience: Potential 2017 Shared Savings Program initial applicants.

Continuing education credit may be awarded for participation in certain MLN Connects Calls. Visit the [Continuing Education Credit Information](#) webpage to learn more.

New Audio Recording and Transcript Available

An [audio recording](#) and [transcript](#) are available for the March 1 call on [Provider Enrollment Revalidation](#). What's ahead for your next Medicare enrollment revalidation? Learn what you need to do and about the new resources available to help you stay on top of the process every step of the way.

Other CMS Events

Comparative Billing Report on Modifier 25: Internal Medicine Webinar

Wednesday, March 30 from 3 to 4:30 pm ET

Join CMS for an informative discussion of the Comparative Billing Report on Modifier 25: Internal Medicine (CBR201603), an educational tool for internists who submit claims for established patient evaluation and management services appended with modifier 25. During the webinar, providers will interact directly with content specialists and submit questions about the report. See the [announcement](#) for more information and find out how to participate.

Comparative Billing Report on Non-invasive Vascular Studies Webinar

Wednesday, April 13 from 3 to 4:30 pm ET

Join CMS for an informative discussion of the Comparative Billing Report on Non-invasive Vascular Studies (CBR201604), an educational tool on duplex scans of the extracranial arteries, lower extremity arteries, or extremity veins. During the webinar, providers will interact directly with content specialists and submit questions about the report. See the [announcement](#) for more information and find out how to participate.

Medicare Learning Network® Publications and Multimedia

February 2016 Catalog Available

The [February 2016 Catalog](#) is available. Learn about:

- Medicare Learning Network products and services that can be downloaded, ordered, or copied for free
- Web-Based Training courses; some offer continuing education credits
- Helpful links, tools, and tips

Dual Eligible Beneficiaries Fact Sheet and MLN Matters® Article — Revised

A revised [Dual Eligible Beneficiaries under the Medicare and Medicaid Programs](#) Fact Sheet is available. Learn about:

- Overview of the Medicare and Medicaid Programs and dual eligible beneficiaries
- Prohibited billing of qualified Medicare beneficiary individuals
- Medicare assignment

A companion revised Special Edition MLN Matters Article on [Prohibition on Balance Billing Dually Eligible Individuals Enrolled in the QMB Program](#) is available. Learn about important clarifications concerning Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) balance billing rules and ways to improve processes related to QMB individuals.

Health Professional Shortage Area Physician Bonus Program Fact Sheet — Revised

A revised [Health Professional Shortage Area \(HPSA\) Physician Bonus Program](#) Fact Sheet is available. Learn about:

- Overview of HPSAs
- Eligibility and payment for bonuses

SNF Consolidated Billing Web-Based Training Course — Reminder

With Continuing Education Credit

The Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Consolidated Billing Web-Based Training (WBT) course is available through the [Learning Management and Product Ordering System](#). Learn about:

- Payment information for SNF services, including services provided by entities other than the SNF
- Bundled prospective payments

HIPAA EDI Standards Web-Based Training Course — Reminder

With Continuing Education Credit

The HIPAA Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Standards Web-Based Training (WBT) course is available through the [Learning Management and Product Ordering System](#). Learn about:

- Standards and code sets mandated under HIPAA
- Information regarding electronic billing and other health care transactions
- The steps involved in the Medicare electronic data interchange process

Medicare-Required SNF PPS Assessments Educational Tool — Reminder

The [Medicare-Required Skilled Nursing Facility \(SNF\) Prospective Payment System \(PPS\) Assessments](#) Educational Tool is available. Learn about:

- Assessment overviews
- Factors affecting the assessment schedule
- Assessment results reporting

Announcements

Medicare SNF Transparency Data for CY 2013

CMS released a new dataset, the Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Utilization and Payment Public Use File with information on services provided to Medicare beneficiaries by SNFs. The new data include information on 15,055 SNFs, over 2.5 million stays, and almost \$27 billion in Medicare payments for 2013. The data is posted on the [Medicare Provider Utilization and Payment Data: SNF](#) webpage.

See the full text of this excerpted [CMS fact sheet](#) (issued March 9).

DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Payment Amounts and Contract Offers for Round 2 Recompete and the National Mail-Order Recompete

On March 15, CMS announced the single payment amounts for Round 2 Recompete and the national mail-order recompete of the Medicare Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) Competitive Bidding Program. CMS is offering contracts to successful bidders. View the CMS [fact sheet](#) for additional information.

Eligible Professionals and Hospitals: Submitting QRDA Files in the 2016 Reporting Period

CMS published the [2016 CMS Quality Reporting Document Architecture \(QRDA\) Implementation Guide \(IG\) for Eligible Professional \(EP\) Programs and Hospital Quality Reporting \(HQR\) Appendix](#).

This Appendix lists important updates and clarifications to the [2016 CMS QRDA IG](#), including:

- Technical corrections to some of the templates
- Clarifications and additional guidance for QRDA-I file submission to HQR
- Clarifications on elements used for eligible hospital Electronic Clinical Quality Measure (eCQM) calculations when specifications are not clear
- Clarifications and additional guidance for specific validations to the Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) programs
- Patient Data Section entry templates constraints for PQRS
- Complete list of the universally unique identifiers referenced by the [eCQM Specifications for EP Update June 2015](#)

Refer to the change log within each schematron file for CMS program specific changes. Visit the [eCQM Library](#) webpage and [Electronic Clinical Quality Improvement Resource Center](#) website for more information.

ICD-10: Track and Improve Your Progress

CMS released a [new infographic](#) based on the [Next Steps Toolkit](#) to help you analyze your ICD-10 progress. By tracking and comparing key performance indicators, you can assess your progress, address your findings, and maintain your progress. Visit the [ICD-10](#) website and [Roadto10.org](#) for the latest news and official resources, including the [ICD-10 Quick Start Guide](#), and a [contact list for provider Medicare and Medicaid questions](#).

CMS Acting Administrator Andy Slavitt's Comments at HIMSS

On March 1, CMS Acting Administrator Andy Slavitt spoke at a Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) panel discussion with Karen DeSalvo, MD, Acting Assistant Secretary for Health. Read his remarks in the [CMS blog](#).

HCAHPS: Measurement of the Patient Experience in Hospitals

In a recent [article](#) in the Journal of the American Medical Association, Lemeneh Tefera, MD, MSc; William G. Lehrman, PhD; Patrick Conway, MD, MSc from CMS clarified the facts, myths, and approaches of the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) survey.

It Is Still Influenza Season

People 65 years and older are at a greater risk of serious complications from seasonal influenza. Do you know if your patients are protected?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends an influenza vaccine each year for everyone 6 months of age and older to reduce the risk of illness and hospitalization. It is not too late to get vaccinated – to protect your patients, your staff, and yourself.

Medicare Part B covers one influenza vaccination and its administration each influenza season for Medicare beneficiaries. Medicare may cover additional seasonal influenza vaccinations if medically necessary.

For More Information:

- [Preventive Services](#) Educational Tool
- [Influenza Vaccine Payment Allowances](#) MLN Matters Article
- [Influenza Resources for Health Care Professionals](#) MLN Matters Article
- [CDC Influenza](#) website
- Use [HealthMap Vaccine Finder](#) to help your patients locate the influenza vaccine in their community

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