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A MEDICARE LEARNING NETWORK® (MLN) EVENT

# Ground Ambulance Providers and Suppliers: Data Collection System Listening Session

Thursday, June 28

## Presenters:

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# Acronyms in this Presentation

- BBA of 2018 = Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018
- CMS = Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
- Secretary = Secretary of Health & Human Services



# Agenda

- Overview of Section 50203 of the Bipartisan Budget Act (BBA) of 2018 (Public Law 115-123)
- Information Gathering from Stakeholders
- Closing Questions or Comments



## Section 50203 of the BBA of 2018

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# Overview

- Extends certain ground ambulance add-on payments through December 31, 2022
- Ground Ambulance Providers and Suppliers must submit cost and other information
  - CMS must collect cost, revenue, utilization, and other information determined appropriate by the Secretary
    - Needed to evaluate the extent to which reported costs relate to payment rates;
    - On the utilization of capital equipment and ambulance capacity; and
    - On different types of ground ambulance services furnished in different geographic locations.
- Specify data collection system and who must report for the first year by December 31, 2019
  - Use representative sample of ground ambulance provider and supplier types and geographic locations
  - Will not include an individual provider or supplier in the sample in 2 consecutive years, to extent practicable
- 10 percent payment reduction for failure to report
  - May exempt provider or supplier from payment reduction due to significant hardship, such as natural disaster, bankruptcy
  - Establish an informal review process



# Overview Continued

- Medicare Payment Advisory Commission must assess information submitted by providers and suppliers, the adequacy of payments for ground ambulance services, and geographic variations in cost, and submit a Report to Congress
  - Analysis of information submitted through the data collection system
  - Analysis of provider and supplier burden associated with the data collection system
  - Recommend whether to continue to keep or revise the data collection system
  - Other information the Commission determines appropriate
- Public Availability –CMS must post information on the results of data collection to the CMS website
- as determined appropriate by the Secretary
- Implement through notice and comment rulemaking



# Information Gathering

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# Topics of Discussion

- What specific comments/concerns do you have with the legislation? Please include potential solutions or things to consider to alleviate those concerns.
- What data elements should we collect and why?
- What costs would be difficult to define and report and why?
- How can we address potential cost variations among providers and suppliers?
- What else should we consider?





# Wrap-Up

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# Resources

- [Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 \(Public Law 115-123\)](#)
- [CMS Ambulance Webpage](#)
- Send comments or questions to [AMBULANCEODF@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:AMBULANCEODF@cms.hhs.gov)
- [Sign up](#) for the Ambulance Open Door Forum mailing list



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