

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Special Open Door Forum:

Final Rule CMS-1599-F: Discussion of the Hospital Inpatient Admission Order and Certification; 2 Midnight Benchmark for Inpatient Hospital Admissions.

Thursday, December 19, 2013

1:00pm – 2:00pm Eastern Time

Conference Call Only

CMS will host a third, follow-up call in its Special Open Door Forum (ODF) series to allow hospitals, practitioners, and other interested parties to ask questions on the physician order and physician certification, inpatient hospital admission and medical review criteria that were released on August 2, 2013 in the FY 2014 Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS)/Long-Term Care Hospital (LTCH) final rule (CMS-1599-F) and corresponding medical review instruction.

The final rule clarifies that for purposes of payment under Medicare Part A, a Medicare beneficiary is considered an inpatient of a hospital, including a critical access hospital, if formally admitted as an inpatient pursuant to an order for inpatient admission by a physician or other qualified practitioner. The final rule provides instruction on when an inpatient hospital admission should be ordered and certified, and clarifies for the practitioner and facility when inpatient hospital admissions are generally appropriate for Medicare Part A payment. The new rules are intended to address concerns about some Medicare beneficiaries having long stays in the hospital as outpatients and improve program integrity. Under the rule, if the ordering practitioner expects a beneficiary's surgical procedure, diagnostic test or other treatment to require a stay in the hospital lasting at least two midnights, and admits the beneficiary as an inpatient based on that expectation, it is generally appropriate that the hospital receive Medicare Part A payment. Also as a condition of Part A payment, the order must also be documented in the medical record in accordance with the regulations, and a physician must certify the medical necessity of hospital inpatient services. The final rule emphasizes the need for a formal order of inpatient admission to begin inpatient status, but permits the ordering practitioner to consider all time a patient has already spent in the hospital as an outpatient receiving observation services, or receiving care in the emergency department, operating room, or other treatment area in guiding their two-midnight expectation.

You can find the final rule by going to: <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/AcuteInpatientPPS/FY2014-IPPS-Final-Rule-Home-Page.html>. For recently released provider information, including frequently asked questions, please visit: <http://go.cms.gov/InpatientHospitalReview>.

Feedback and questions on the two midnight provision for admission and medical review can be sent to IPPSAdmissions@cms.hhs.gov. Questions on Part B inpatient billing and the clarifications regarding the physician order and certification should be sent to the subject matter staff listed in the final rule.

We look forward to your participation.

Special Open Door Participation Instructions:

Dial: 1-866-501-5502

Conference ID: 16505942

Note: TTY Communications Relay Services are available for the Hearing Impaired. For TTY services dial 7-1-1 or 1-800-855-2880. A Relay Communications Assistant will help.

A transcript and audio recording of this Special ODF will be posted to the Special Open Door Forum website at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Outreach/OpenDoorForums/ODFSpecialODF.html>.

For automatic emails of Open Door Forum schedule updates (E-Mailing list subscriptions) and to view Frequently Asked Questions please visit our website at <http://www.cms.gov/opendoorforums/> .