

CMS Requests Public Comment on a Revised Version of the Important Message from Medicare

An announcement was published in the Federal Register on January 5, 2007 requesting comments on a revised version of the Important Message from Medicare (IM) (CMS-R-193). Comments on this notice will be accepted through 5 pm on March 6, 2007. This notice stems directly from the new notice requirements contained in the November 27, 2006 final rule, Notification of Hospital Discharge Appeal Rights, CMS-4105-F. Beginning July 1, 2007, hospitals must deliver a revised version of the IM to inform Medicare beneficiaries who are hospital inpatients about their hospital discharge appeal rights. Notice is required both for original Medicare beneficiaries and for beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare health plans. For now, hospitals must continue to use current notices and processes.

To view the announcement in the Federal Register Notice go to:

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/E6-22570.pdf>

To obtain copies of the IM and supporting documents, go to <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PaperworkReductionActof1995>. On the menu on the left side of that page, click on “PRA Listing”, then scroll down or search for “CMS-R-193”.

Comments must be sent to:

CMS, Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs,
Division of Regulations Development – C
Attention: Bonnie L. Harkless
Room C4-26-05,
7500 Security Blvd.
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850

Following this comment period, and in accordance with OMB’s Paperwork Reduction Act process, both the revised Important Message from Medicare and the Detailed Notice associated with this process will be published again for a 30-day public comment period, probably sometime in April. We will send out another announcement through this Open Door Forum at that time.

Thank you!