

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Special Open Door Forum:  
Designing A Skilled Nursing Facility Value-Based Purchasing Program  
Thursday, March 10, 2011 1:30 – 3:30 PM ET  
Conference Call Only

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will host a Special Open Door Forum on designing a value-based purchasing (VBP) program for Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs). The purpose of this Special Open Door Forum is to solicit input from all parties interested in the development of the plan for implementing a VBP program in SNFs.

Section 3006 of the Affordable Care Act requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a plan to implement a value-based purchasing program for payments to SNFs under the Medicare program. The Secretary must submit a report containing this plan to Congress not later than October 1, 2011. Currently, we are in the process of identifying and analyzing key components of an effective VBP program for skilled nursing facility care.

After a brief presentation by CMS on the statutory requirements and the goals and objectives for today's call, we will open the phones to comments. CMS is seeking stakeholder input on a number of topics defined in the statute including:

1. The ongoing development, selection, and modification process for measures of quality and efficiency;
2. The reporting, collection, and validation of quality data;
3. The structure of value-based payment adjustments, including the determination of thresholds or improvements in quality, the size of such payments, and the sources of funding for the value-based bonus payments;
4. Methods for the public disclosure of information on the performance of Skilled Nursing Facilities; and
5. Any other issues.

The following list provides additional questions from a literature review of existing VBP programs where we are interested in getting feedback.

1. **Target Population.** How should the VBP program consider differences in target population? For example, should the VBP program be limited to only the performance of care for SNF patients or all residents in the facility (e.g., Medicaid, private pay)?
2. **Quality Measures.** Which types of quality measures should CMS consider when measuring SNF performance under a VBP program?
3. **Measuring Quality Performance.** What issues should CMS consider in implementing a quality performance assessment model? Should CMS consider a single overall performance score or separate scores for each outcome/process domain? For example, CMS could link incentive payments directly to individual measures, or base payments only on overall performance.
4. **Ranking Quality Performance.** Should performance incentives be based on attainment, improvement, improvement with an attainment floor, a combination of these, or other?

5. **Payment Mechanisms.** What factors should be considered in making performance incentive payments or to collect penalties? How should performance incentive payments be funded?
6. **Data Infrastructure.** How should new measures be calculated with current data collection systems? Should any new data collection be required? What should be done to reduce the burden of data collection, and ensure timely and accurate submission?
7. **Public Reporting.** How should public reporting complement a SNF VBP program?

You are also encouraged to submit additional thoughts or feedback following the session to an email address established for this purpose: [snfvbp@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:snfvbp@cms.hhs.gov)

We look forward to your participation.

Special Open Door Forum Participation Instructions:

Dial 1-800-837-1935 Conference ID 41221059

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

An audio recording and transcript of this Special Forum will be posted to the Special Open Door Forum website at [http://www.cms.gov/OpenDoorForums/05\\_ODF\\_SpecialODF.asp](http://www.cms.gov/OpenDoorForums/05_ODF_SpecialODF.asp) and will be accessible for downloading beginning on or around March 31, 2011.

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/>.

Thank you for your interest in CMS Open Door Forums.