

**SPECIAL OPEN DOOR FORUM:
NEW PHYSICIAN SELF-REFERRAL SPECIALTY HOSPITAL
STRATEGIC AND IMPLEMENTING PLAN AND
CONTINUATION OF THE SUSPENSION ON ENROLLING
SPECIALTY HOSPITALS**

**Wednesday, March 8, 2006
2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time)**

CONFERENCE CALL ONLY

On Wednesday, March 8, 2006, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will host a Special Open Door Forum (ODF) about our proposed strategic and implementing plan for studying certain specialty hospital issues required by section 5006 of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA). This is the second ODF concerning CMS activities connected with physician-owned specialty hospitals.

Section 5006 of the DRA, enacted February 8, 2006, directs the Secretary to develop “a strategic and implementing plan” concerning whether the physician investment in a specialty hospital is proportional; whether the investment is a bona fide investment; and whether the Secretary should require annual disclosure of investment information. In addition, the DRA requires the Secretary to consider the provision by specialty hospitals of care to: (a) Medicaid patients; (b) patients receiving medical assistance under a State demonstration project approved under title XI of the Act; and (c) patients receiving charity care. The DRA also requires the strategic and implementing plan to address the issue of appropriate enforcement. The DRA requires an interim report within 3 months and a final report within 6 months or certification of failure to complete the report. In addition, the DRA extends the administrative suspension on enrollment of new specialty hospitals until the earlier of the date the Secretary submits the final report or 6 months after enactment of the DRA. If the Secretary does not submit the report within the 6-month period, the suspension on enrollment is extended for 2 additional months.

We have begun to develop the strategic and implementing plan required by the DRA. Using data contained in the 40 specialty hospital advisory opinion requests, we have started to analyze the investment interests of physicians in specialty hospitals. We intend to seek additional information to better determine patient mix by payer and other DRA issues associated with specialty hospitals.

We are seeking public comment about our proposed methodology to develop the strategic plan. Final comments are due by March 31, 2006. Comments should be submitted directly to Donald Romano, Director of the Division for Technical Payment Policy, CMS via e-mail at Donald.Romano@cms.hhs.gov or

Donald Romano, Director
Division of Technical Payment Policy
Center for Medicare Management
Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services

7500 Security Blvd., Mailstop: C4-25-01
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

We look forward to your participation.

Open Door Participation Instructions:

General Public

Dial: 1-800-837-1935

Reference Conference ID 5845625

Note: TTY Communications Relay Services are available for the Hearing Impaired. For TTY services dial 7-1-1 or 1-800-855-2880 and for Internet Relay services click here <http://www.consumer.att.com/relay/which/index.html> .

A Relay Communications Assistant will help.

ENCORE: 1-800-642-1687; Conf. ID# **5845625**

"Encore" is an audio recording of this call that can be accessed by dialing 1-800-642-1687 and entering the Conf. ID., **beginning 2 hours after the call has ended.** The recording will be available for 4 business days.

For Forum Schedule updates, Listserv registration and Frequently Asked Questions please visit our website at www.cms.hhs.gov/OpenDoorForums/ .