

REACTIVE STATEMENT

REACTIVE STATEMENT-- Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Appeals Settlement Option

(attributable to CMS officials, if needed)

As part of our efforts to reduce provider burden, and as part of a broader effort by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to improve and eliminate the backlog in the Medicare appeals process, CMS has established a voluntary Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) Appeals Settlement option. This settlement option is target toward hundreds of providers with certain IRF appeals pending at the Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC), the Qualified Independent Contractor (QIC), the Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals (OMHA), and Medicare Appeals Council (*Council*) levels of review, which will expedite the Medicare appeals backlog and reduce administrative burden for providers. This option is also available for IRF appeals that are not currently pending, but are eligible for further appeal at the QIC, OMHA or Council level. CMS encourages appellants with IRF appeals to consider participating in this voluntary settlement options to resolve their outstanding Medicare appeals.