

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has implemented the Medicare Home Health Independence Demonstration, which is mandated under Section 702 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act (MMA) of 2003 (Public Law 108-173). Abt Associates Inc., of Cambridge, Massachusetts is assisting CMS in the implementation.

Section 702 of the MMA states that the Secretary shall conduct a 2-year demonstration in 3 states (representing the Northeast, the Midwest, and the West) in which Medicare beneficiaries with chronic conditions of a specific nature are deemed to be homebound, without regard to purpose, frequency, or duration of absences from home, for the purpose of receiving home health services under the Medicare program. Enrollment under the demonstration is limited to no more than 15,000 beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries eligible for this demonstration are those with:

- a permanent need for help with 3 of 5 Activities of Daily Living (ADLs)
- a permanent need for skilled nursing care
- a need daily attendant visits to monitor, treat or provide ADL assistance
- permanent skilled nursing care
- a need for technological or personal assistance to leave home

and who are not working outside the home. **In addition, eligible beneficiaries must meet all current Medicare home health eligibility requirements other than those related to absences from the home.**

The purpose of the demonstration is to study the efficacy and cost to Medicare of providing home health services to Medicare beneficiaries with severe chronic conditions who otherwise would not be deemed homebound under the Medicare program. Under the demonstration, Medicare beneficiaries who qualify for Medicare home health benefits and meet the demonstration criteria can leave their homes more frequently and for longer periods without risking the loss of those benefits.

On June 3, 2004, Secretary Tommy Thompson held a press conference to announce the states selected for the Homebound Demonstration. The states selected are Massachusetts, Missouri, and Colorado. Implementation of a campaign within these 3 states to inform Home Health Agencies (HHAs), other pertinent providers, interest groups and beneficiaries began in September and the demonstration was implemented on October 4, 2004.

(See downloads area below for more information: Summary and Legislative Language).

Information for Home Health Providers

(See downloads area below for more information: Home Health Provider Letter).

Information for Referring Providers and Advocates

(See downloads area below for more information: Referring Providers and Advocates letter).

Information for Medicare Beneficiaries

(See downloads area below for more information: Medicare Beneficiary Informational Brochure).

Dialog meetings

(See downloads area below for more information: December 2004 Dialog Agenda, December 2004 Dialog Call-In Information).

Update Issue

(See downloads area below for more information: Update Issue 1.)

Contacts:

(See downloads area below for more information: Contact Information)