



MEDICARE DRUG & HEALTH PLAN CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION GROUP

DATE: October 7, 2019

TO: Medicare Advantage Regional Preferred Provider Organizations

FROM: Kathryn A. Coleman
Director

SUBJECT: Contract Year 2020 Essential Hospital Designation and Attestation

This memo advises Medicare Advantage organizations that offer Regional Preferred Provider Organizations (RPPOs) on requesting CMS approval to designate non-contracting hospitals as essential hospitals pursuant to 42 CFR 422.112(c). RPPOs must submit the following information to CMS by **Thursday, October 31, 2019**:

- An RPPO Hospital Designation Table;
- Signed Attestation demonstrating the RPPO's "good faith" effort to establish a contract pursuant to Section 1858(h) of the Social Security Act (the Act) and 42 CFR 422.112(c)(3); and
- Written documentation, such as emails or letters to and from each hospital on the table demonstrating the RPPO's attempts at contracting.

The RPPO Essential Hospital Designation Table and attestation are attached to this memo. Please note that RPPOs that received approval of their essential hospital designations for contract year (CY) 2019 must re-submit those hospitals for re-approval for CY 2020. RPPOs should submit to the mailbox located under the Medicare Advantage tab at: <https://dmao.lmi.org>. Please use "Essential Hospital Designation Request" as the issue title.

CMS will review and approve the table and attestation requests prior to December 30, 2019. RPPOs that receive CMS approval must establish a HIPAA-compliant electronic claims transmission connection with Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC, the Medicare Administrative Contractor responsible for administering essential hospital bonus payments on behalf of CMS.