

## Questions and Answers from Rural Health Open Door Forum- November 19, 2020

1. The question that I have goes to the subject of price transparency. We're very concerned that there's a large number of rural hospitals, especially given the pandemic, that aren't going to be able to meet the January 1 deadline for posting of the requirements under the regulation on price transparency. Mrs. Verma was on a call a week or two ago where she made the comment that we encourage hospitals that may not be able to comply with the regulation to apply for a hardship waiver. I was just wondering where that application is. I've been getting lots of questions from rural hospitals on that, and how they can access that application.
  - a. The final rule didn't build in any hardship exemptions or anything like that. I'm not aware of any process that's available for price transparency. There may be hardship exemptions for other aspects under Medicare that you could look into. But as far as the price transparency effective date goes, we're planning on implementing it on January 1. We really encourage participation in the December 8 webinar that's coming up, because we've heard a lot of, you know, we've gotten questions that suggest that there are misconceptions about either the definitions that were finalized in the rule, which would make things exponentially more difficult. We did a lot of work to reduce burden. In fact, the rule largely builds on what hospitals were already required to do starting January 1, 2019. So I'm hoping that you and your folks can join us for the December 8 webinar where we'll walk through things very carefully. And I think that potentially when folks start looking more closely at the resources that are available, and that webinar, they'll maybe dispel some of the concerns.