

Questions and Answers from Open Door Forum: Hospital, **August 27th, 2019**

1. I'm wondering if exclusion means that we cannot use that case by case exception for total joint arthroplasty?
 - a. We did not propose a change to the case by case exception where when the physician believes in her clinical judgement that a one-day admission, inpatient admission, would be appropriate, that that is still allowed. So, there were no proposed changes to that. That's why we didn't mention it.
 - 1a. I'm wondering why the prior authorization program is not going to include physician processes or ambulatory surgery centers where there's much less oversight for medical complexity by compliance officers and such.
 - a. So, as part of our responsibility to protect Medicare trust funds, CMS will continue to review and analyze Medicare data and determine if and which additional outpatient department services exhibited unnecessary increase in volume for which prior authorization would be appropriate. And we will propose any new additional services through rulemaking. So, we haven't necessarily finished the project. This is just where we're starting out. These were pretty clear options for us to test the system.
2. What's the status of the short state QIO reviews?
 - a. The status of the work is procurement sensitive so we can't provide additional information at this time.
 - 2a. What efforts will be made to ensure the audits are done correctly, unlike the past?
 - a. Our monitoring and oversight processes for this work are procurement sensitive so we can't provide additional information at this time.