

Questions and Answers from Special Open Door Forum: Price Transparency– December 10, 2019

1. Can you please clarify when you said the description and you mentioned something about CMS? Is there expectation that the description needs to follow CMS standard descriptions for codes or can we use our own descriptions? That's question number one. And question number two, what are the requirements for January 2020? Is the requirement to publish the chargemaster which we've had the requirements since last year still in the fact that 2020 with added criteria of what should be included in the chargemaster or that requirement goes in fact in 2021?
 - a. In terms of the description their - hospitals have relative flexibility in determining what description you want to put. So for the machine - the comprehensive machine readable file it probably makes sense to use a shorter description. For **example**, the description that is found in your chargemaster or in your rate sheets with your payers. So that's a comprehensive machine readable file. For the consumer friendly information though it - the description should be in plain language. And we haven't been any more prescriptive than that except to just ensure that the description that you use for the 300 shoppable services and the consumer friendly - those consumer friendly information it is in fact consumer friendly. So plain language and there's a link in the final rule to some plain language guidance that you're not required to use but could help provide some additional information. So the second question currently the guidance that is in place starting January 1, 2019 will continue until these new rules take effect on January 1, 2021.