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SunSolutions **SPOTLIGHT** News Break

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Released Transmittals on Part B Therapy \$3700 Manual Medical Review Process

CMS has now released two transmittals regarding the Part B Therapy \$3,700 Manual Medical Review Process. The two transmittals provide the most up to date information on the medical review process that goes into effect October 1st. See the CMS link below to access the information.

<http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/2012-Transmittals.html>

HHS ANNOUNCES NEXT STEPS TO PROMOTE USE OF ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS

HHS announces next steps to promote use of electronic and health information exchange

On August 23, 2012 the Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced the next steps in the Obama administration's work to help doctors and hospitals use electronic health records.

"The changes we're announcing today will lead to more coordination of patient care, reduced medical errors, elimination of duplicate screenings and tests and greater patient engagement in their own care," Secretary Sebelius said.

Under the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical



Implementation of Part B Manual Medical Review starts October 1

*Are you and your staff ready?
Are systems in place?*

Be Proactive...

The new process is somewhat complicated to initiate and will require your staff to have excellent tracking, planning and management skills for residents with Part B benefits.

Call SunSolutions today to ensure readiness: MMR Implementation Assessment and Tool Kit

Be Sure...

Tracking, management and systems are ready for your start date. SunSolutions will provide the

Health (HITECH) Act, doctors, health care professionals and hospitals can qualify for Medicare and Medicaid incentive payments when they adopt and meaningfully use certified electronic health record (EHR) technology.

More than 120,000 eligible health care professionals and more than 3,300 hospitals have qualified to participate in the program and receive an incentive payment since it began in January 2011. That exceeds a 100,000 goal set earlier this year.

That includes more than half of all eligible hospitals and critical access hospitals and 1 out of every 5 eligible health care professionals. The program is divided into three stages:

- Stage 1 sets the basic functionalities electronic health records must include such as capturing data electronically and providing patients with electronic copies of health information.
- Stage 2 (which will begin as early as 2014) increases health information exchange between providers and promotes patient engagement by giving patients secure online access to their health information.
- Stage 3 will continue to expand meaningful use objectives to improve health care outcomes.

HHS' Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and HHS' Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT released final requirements for stage 2 that hospitals and health care providers must meet in order to qualify for incentives during the second stage of the program, and criteria that electronic health records must meet to achieve certification.

The requirements announced include:

- Make clear that stage two of the program will begin as early as 2014. No providers will be required to follow the Stage 2 requirements outlined today before 2014.
- Outline the certification criteria for the certification of EHR technology, so eligible professionals and hospitals may be assured that the systems they use will work, help them meaningfully use health information technology, and qualify for incentive payments.
- Modify the certification program to cut red tape and make the certification process more efficient.
- Allow current "2011 Edition Certified EHR Technology" to be used until 2014.

The CMS final rule also provides a flexible reporting period for 2014 to give providers sufficient time to adopt or upgrade to the latest EHR technology certified for 2014.

A fact sheet on CMS's final rule is available at http://www.cms.gov/apps/media/fact_sheets.asp.

A detailed fact sheet on ONC's standards and certification criteria final rule is available at <http://healthit.hhs.gov/standardsandcertification>.

tool kit, assessment and training. Tool kit includes: Part B meeting form and Triple Check form.

Be Ready...

For you Medical Manual Review Process and when to submit Requests for Exceptions? Know your Phase by your assigned NPI--National Provider ID

Centers or Agencies in Phase 1 begin October 1, 2012

Centers or Agencies in Phase 2 begin November 1, 2012

Centers or Agencies in Phase 3 begin December 1, 2012

SunSolutions' Mock Survey

SunSolutions' mock survey can prime your team to help avoid any citations!

From procedures to interview questions, our mock survey prepares your staff, teaching effective communication and appropriate responses to surveyor questions. Prepare your team for a WIN!

For unparalleled results, call SunSolutions Consulting today at 888.867.2220



Contact Info

Contact SunSolutions Consulting at sunsolutionsconsulting@sunh.com or tollfree - (888) 867 2220 for a listing of products, services or to schedule an educational seminar/ teleconference.

The final rules announced today may be viewed at <http://www.ofr.gov/inspection.aspx?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>. More information on the Stage 2 rule can be found at the CMS EHR Incentive Programs website at www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms.

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