



New from the Medicare Learning Network

The revised *ICD-10-CM/PCS Bookmark* (August 2009), which provides information about the ICD-10-Clinical Modification/Procedure Coding System (ICD-10-CM/PCS) including the benefits of adopting the coding system, recommended steps to be taken in order to plan and prepare for implementation of the coding system, and where additional information about the coding system can be found, is now available in print format from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Medicare Learning Network. To place your order, visit <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNGenInfo/> , scroll down to “Related Links Inside CMS” and select “MLN Product Ordering Page.”

Encore Available for the Information Exchange with HHS on H1N1 Healthcare System Preparedness and Response on August 20, 2009

Did you miss the Information Exchange with HHS on H1N1 Healthcare System Preparedness and Response on August 20? You can still listen to the exchange using the Encore feature – Dial 800-642-1687, conference identification is H1N1. Also – you can continue to send questions and comment to H1N1.listening@hhs.gov .

While questions cannot be answered individually, these questions will help shape the content and subject matter of the next call, scheduled for September 14.

Medicare Fee-for-Service Emergency Preparedness Questions and Answers

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has updated the Medicare Fee-for-Service Emergency Preparedness Questions and Answers (Qs & As). The Emergency Qs & As are posted in a document at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Emergency/10_PandemicFlu.asp. These Qs & As include a section applicable to the H1N1 flu virus.

The document is dated to reflect the posting date. As additions and changes are made to the document, the download name will change to reflect the date. Please take note that these Qs & As do not address a Section 1135 waiver situation.

Calendar Year (CY) 2009 Home Health PPS (HH PPS) Personal Computer (PC) Pricer Update

The CY 2009 Home Health PPS (HH PPS) PC Pricer requires a revised release level. The HH PPS PC Pricer has been updated as of August 27, 2009. If you use the HH PPS PC Pricer, go to the web page, http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PCPricer/05_HH.asp, under the "Downloads" section and download the latest version of the PC Pricer.

Important Update on Status of the Revised HHABN, Form CMS-R-296

The Home Health Beneficiary Notice of Noncoverage (HHABN), Form CMS-R-296 is currently undergoing the final stages of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) review in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). OMB issued an extension of the expiration date on the current HHABN pending approval of the revised form.

Home Health Agencies should continue using the existing HHABN until the revised HHABN receives final OMB approval at which time it will be posted on the CMS website along with the revised instructions and the date for its mandatory use at: http://www.cms.hhs.gov/BNI/03_HHABN.asp.

CMS Updates Ambulatory Surgery Center Payment Information for Value-Driven Health Care

To support the delivery of high-quality, efficient health care and enable consumers to make more informed health care decisions, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is making cost and quality data available to all Americans. As part of this initiative, Medicare posted information in 2007 and 2008 about the payments it made during the previous year for common and elective procedures and services provided by Hospitals, Ambulatory Surgery Centers (ASCs), Hospital Outpatient Departments, and Physicians.

The Hospital information is posted on the Hospital Compare Website where it can be viewed along with hospital quality information. The Hospital compare website may be found at www.medicare.gov.

On August 28, 2009, Medicare posted an update to the Ambulatory Surgery Center data. Hospital Outpatient Department and Physician payment data will be updated later this year. The information is being displayed in the same format as in previous years, updated with calendar year (CY) 2008 data. The posting updates may be found at: www.cms.hhs.gov/HealthCareConInit/.