
Program Memorandum Intermediaries/Carriers

Department of Health &
Human Services (DHHS)
Centers for Medicare &
Medicaid Services (CMS)

Transmittal AB-02-049

Date: April 24, 2002

CHANGE REQUEST 1868

SUBJECT: New Source of Provider Information Available on CMS Website April 22, 2002

To make it easier for providers to understand and comply with Medicare regulations and instructions, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will issue a quarterly update of all changes to Medicare instructions that affect providers. The Quarterly Provider Update will be a single source of national Medicare provider information. The first issue released April 22, 2002, can be found on the Internet at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/providerupdate>.

Each issue will include (courtesy of the **Federal Register**) the full text of **regulations** published the previous quarter and advance notice of regulations to be published within the next 90 days. The full text of **instructions** to be implemented beginning the following quarter will also be included. For example, instructions with an implementation date of July 1, 2002, or shortly thereafter are included in the April Update.

The Update will be organized by provider type. Each provider type (e.g., hospitals, home health agencies, physicians) will be able to follow the appropriate hyperlinks to view regulations and instructions that affect them. Comments on organization, format and utility will be solicited via a feedback form in the Update.

Although, the Update will be released on a quarterly basis, you will still receive instructions from CMS on a flow basis. The method of issuing electronic advance copies of manual instructions and program memoranda via the DRI e-mail resource will not change. Also, instructions will continue to be posted routinely to the CMS Web site.

To announce the April Update, please place the following language in your next scheduled bulletin and/or on your Web site for providers:

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released the first issue of *The CMS Quarterly Provider Update* on April 22, 2002. Future issues will be released the first work day of each subsequent calendar quarter. These quarterly Updates will include all changes to Medicare instructions that affect providers, or may be of interest to them. They will provide a single source for national Medicare provider information and give providers advance notice on upcoming instructions and regulations.

The first release is a Web-based document and is available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/providerupdate>. For ease of use by individual providers, regulations and instructions are collated and sorted based on the interests of the user.

Each Update will include the full text of instructions to be implemented 90 or more days after its release. For example, instructions included in the April Update will have an implementation date of July 1, 2002 or later. The listings of regulations will be presented into two parts. One part will list all regulations CMS plans to publish within the next 90 days. The second part will include hyperlinks to the text of all regulations published in the previous quarter.

CMS' goal is to make it easier for providers to understand and comply with Medicare regulations and instructions and to give them time to review and react to upcoming program changes. To improve future issues of the Update and ensure they are responsive to provider needs, a feedback form will be included with each issue. CMS encourages anyone accessing the Update to use the feedback form to forward comments on its utility, organization and format.

At your discretion, you may modify the above language as appropriate for your audience, e.g. you may use "physician services," instead of "hospital" in the example found in the second paragraph of the announcement.

The implementation date of this Program Memorandum (PM) April 24, 2002.

The effective date of this PM is April 24, 2002.

These instructions should be implemented within your current operating budget.

This PM should be discarded after April 01, 2003.

If you have any questions, contact Marlene Kidd at (410)-786-5243.