Related Change Request (CR) #: N/A

Medlearn Matters Number: SE0411

Effective Date: April 1, 2004

Implementation Date: April 1, 2004

Temporary Hold of Inpatient Claims in April 2004

Provider Types Affected

Hospitals.

Provider Action Needed

No action is needed. This article is informational only.

Background

On March 24, 2004, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the April 2004 Inpatient Hospital PRICER software to the maintainers of the systems used by Medicare Fiscal intermediaries (FIs) in processing Medicare inpatient hospital claims.

To allow sufficient time for the testing and installation of this software by the FIs, CMS has instructed the FIs to hold inpatient acute care hospital claims with discharge dates on or after April 1, 2004. The FIs will hold such claims until their systems are ready to process them using the April 2004 PRICER, but the FIs must begin processing these claims on or before April 19, 2004.

Because Medicare does not make payment for claims received electronically until 14 days after receipt, at the earliest, it is unlikely that any such claims would have been eligible for payment until April 15. Thus, this delay should have little, if any, adverse impact on hospitals, especially since the FIs must begin processing the held claims no later than April 19.

Additional Information

Should you have questions regarding this issue, please contact your FI at their toll-free number, which may be found at:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/tollnums.asp