DATA DEADLINE THREATENS REIMBURSEMENT …
BEGIN COLLECTING RETROACTIVE DATA NOW

Medicare’s proposed 2007 Inpatient PPS rule calls for hospitals to submit data on 21 quality measures for patients discharged in the first quarter of 2006 and for each succeeding quarter. Failure to submit the data will result in a reduction of 2% in the hospital’s Medicare inpatient update. If this provision is not changed in the final rule, the required data for first quarter 2006 patients will be due to the QIO data warehouse on August 15 … just two weeks after the expected August 1 publication of the final rule.

The measures called for are those adopted by the Hospital Quality Alliance on heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia and surgical infection prevention (SIP). (The latest information on Hospital Compare indicates that only about one-third of hospitals are reporting SIP measures.) In conversations with CMS after release of the proposed rule and in our comment letters, we indicated our continued support for the reporting of measures, but asked CMS to reconsider the timing of the data collection. We urged CMS to start the data collection with patients discharged during the third quarter of 2006 and to let the field know immediately about the change so hospitals could put the necessary processes in place to accurately collect and submit data on any and all of the 21 measures that they are not currently collecting.

In the absence of any indication from CMS that the timing change will be made, we urge hospital leaders to contact their data collection vendor, if they have not done so already, and take whatever steps are needed to ensure their data can be submitted by August 15 and receive their full inpatient update for 2007. If you have questions please contact:

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