

meet or exceed our requirements. Therefore, we approve URAC as a national accreditation organization with deeming authority for MA HMOs and PPOs, effective May 26, 2012 through May 25, 2018.

V. Collection of Information Requirements

This document does not impose information collection and recordkeeping requirements. Consequently, it need not be reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget under the authority of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 35).

Authority: Section 1865 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395bb).

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 93.778, Medical Assistance Program; No. 93.773 Medicare—Hospital Insurance Program; and No. 93.774, Medicare—Supplemental Medical Insurance Program)

Dated: May 21, 2012.

Marilyn Tavenner,

Acting Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS-1595-N]

Medicare Program; Semi-Annual Meeting of the Advisory Panel on Hospital Outpatient Payment (HOP Panel)—August 27, 28, and 29, 2012

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the second semi-annual meeting of the Advisory Panel on Hospital Outpatient Payment (HOP, the Panel), (the Ambulatory Payment Classification (APC) Panel) for 2012. The purpose of the Panel is to advise the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) (the Secretary) and the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) (the Administrator) on the clinical integrity of the APC groups and their associated weights, and hospital outpatient therapeutic supervision issues.

DATES: *Meeting Date:* The second semi-annual meeting in 2012 is scheduled for the following dates and times. **Note:** The

times listed in this notice are Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) and are approximate times; consequently, the meetings may last longer than listed in this notice, but will not begin before the posted times:

- Monday, August 27, 2012, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. EDT.
- Tuesday, August 28, 2012, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EDT.
- Wednesday, August 29, 2012, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EDT.

Deadlines

Deadline for Presentations and Comments—5 p.m. EDT, Friday, July 27, 2012. (See below for submission instructions for both hardcopy and electronic submissions.)

Deadline for Meeting Registration—5 p.m. EDT, Friday, August 17, 2012.

(Note: Those who do not preregister may not be able to attend the meeting since seating space is limited).

Deadline for Requests for Special Accommodations—5 p.m. EDT, Friday, August 17, 2012.

Submission Instructions for Presentations and Comments

Because of staffing and resource limitations, we cannot accept written comments and/or presentations by FAX, nor can we print written comments and presentations received by email for dissemination at the meeting.

Presentations

Presentations must be based on the scope of the Panel designated in the Charter. Any presentations outside of the scope of this Panel will be returned and/or amendments requested. Unrelated topics include, but are not limited to, the conversion factor, charge compression, revisions to the cost report, pass-through payments, correct coding, new technology applications (including supporting information/documentation), provider payment adjustments, supervision of hospital outpatient diagnostic services and the types of practitioners that are permitted to supervise hospital outpatient services. The Panel may not recommend that services be designated as nonsurgical extended duration therapeutic services.

All presentations will be considered public information and may be posted on the CMS web site and will be shared with the public. Presenters should not send pictures of patients in any of the documents (unless their faces have been blocked out) or include any examples with patient identifiable information.

In order to consider presentation and/or comment requests, we will need to receive the following information:

1. A hardcopy of your presentation; only hardcopy comments and presentations can be reproduced for public dissemination. We note that all presentations are limited to 5 minutes per individual or organization.

2. An email copy of your presentations sent to the Designated Federal Official's (DFO) mailbox, Raymond.Bulls@cms.hhs.gov.

3. Form CMS-20017 with complete contact information that includes name, address, phone, and email addresses for all presenters and a contact that can answer any questions and or provide revisions that are requested for the presentation.

○ Presenters must clearly explain the action(s) that they are requesting CMS to take in the appropriate section of the form. A presenter's relationship to the organization that they represent must also be clearly listed.

○ The form is now available through the CMS Forms Web site. The Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for linking to this form is as follows: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/cmsforms/downloads/cms20017.pdf>.

ADDRESSES: *Meeting Location:* The meeting will be held in the Auditorium, CMS Central Office, 7500 Security Boulevard, Woodlawn, Maryland 21244-1850.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For inquiries about the Panel, contact the DFO: Raymond Bulls, 7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop C4-03-12, Woodlawn, MD 21244-1850. Phone: (410) 786-7267.

Mail hardcopies and email copies to the following addresses: Raymond Bulls, DFO, CMS, CM, HAPC, DOC—HOPS Panel, 7500 Security Blvd., Woodlawn, MD 21244-1850, Mail Stop C4-03-12, Raymond.Bulls@cms.hhs.gov.

Note: We recommend that you advise couriers of the following information: When delivering hardcopies of presentations to CMS, if no one answers at the above phone number, call (410) 786-4532 or (410) 786-7267.

News Media: Representatives must contact our Public Affairs Office at (202) 690-6145.

Advisory Committees' Information Lines: The phone numbers for the CMS Federal Advisory Committee Hotline are 1-877-449-5659 (toll free) and (410) 786-9379 (local).

Web Sites: For additional information on the Panel and updates to the Panel's activities, we refer readers to view our Web site at the following: <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/FACA/>

*AdvisoryPanelonAmbulatory
PaymentClassificationGroups.html.*

You may also search information about the Panel and its membership in the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) database at the following URL: <https://www.fido.gov/facadatabase/public.asp>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) (the Secretary) is required by section 1833(t)(9)(A) of the Social Security Act (the Act) and section 222 of the Public Health Service Act (PHS Act) to consult with an expert outside advisory panel regarding the clinical integrity of the Ambulatory Payment Classification (APC) groups and relative payment weights. The Panel (which was formerly known as the Advisory Panel on Ambulatory Payment Classification Groups) is governed by the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), to set forth standards for the formation and use of advisory panels.

The Charter provides that the Panel shall meet up to 3 times annually. We consider the technical advice provided by the Panel as we prepare the proposed and final rules to update the outpatient prospective payment system (OPPS).

II. Agenda

The agenda for the August 2012 meeting will provide for discussion and comment on the following topics as designated in the Panel's Charter:

- Addressing whether procedures within an APC group are similar both clinically and in terms of resource use.
- Evaluating APC group weights.
- Reviewing the packaging of OPPS services and costs, including the methodology and the impact on APC groups and payment.
- Removing procedures from the inpatient list for payment under the OPPS.
- Using single and multiple procedure claims data for CMS' determination of APC group weights.
- Addressing other technical issues concerning APC group structure.
- Recommending the appropriate supervision level (general, direct, or personal) for individual hospital outpatient therapeutic services.

The subject matter before the Panel will be limited to these and related topics. Unrelated topics include, but are not limited to, the conversion factor, charge compression, revisions to the cost report, pass-through payments,

correct coding, new technology applications (including supporting information/documentation), provider payment adjustments, hospital outpatient supervision of diagnostic services and the types of practitioners who are permitted to supervise hospital outpatient services.

The Panel may not recommend that services be designated as nonsurgical extended duration therapeutic services.

The Panel may use data collected or developed by entities and organizations, other than the DHHS and CMS in conducting its review. We recommend organizations submit data for the Panel's and CMS staff's review. The Agenda will be posted on the CMS Web site prior to the meeting.

III. Oral Comments

In addition to formal oral presentations, which are limited to 5 minutes per individual or organization, there will be an opportunity during the meeting for public oral comments, which will be limited to 1 minute for each individual and a total of 3 minutes per organization.

IV. Meeting Attendance

The meeting is open to the public; however, attendance is limited to space available. Priority will be given to those who pre-register, and attendance may be limited based on the number of registrants and the space available.

Persons wishing to attend this meeting, which is located on Federal property, must email the DFO to register in advance no later than 5 p.m. (EDT), August 17, 2012. A confirmation will be sent to the requester(s) by return email within 10 days of the meeting.

In your email request for registration, include the following information:

- Name(s) of attendee(s).
- Title(s).
- Organization.
- Office address, including city and state.
- Email address(es).
- Telephone number(s).

V. Security, Building, and Parking Guidelines

The following are the security, building, and parking guidelines:

- Persons attending the meeting, including presenters, must be pre-registered and on attendance list by the prescribed date.
- Individuals who are not pre-registered in advance may not be permitted to enter the building and may be unable to attend the meeting.
- Attendees must present valid photo identification to the Federal Protective Service or Guard Service personnel

before entering the building. Without a current, valid photo ID, persons may not be permitted entry to the building.

- Security measures include inspection of vehicles, inside and out, at the entrance to the grounds.
- All persons entering the building must pass through a metal detector.
- All items brought into CMS including personal items, for example, laptops and cell phones, are subject to physical inspection.
- The public may enter the building 30 to 45 minutes before the meeting convenes each day.
- All visitors must be escorted in areas other than the lower and first-floor levels in the Central Building.
- The main-entrance guards will issue parking permits and instructions upon arrival at the building.

VI. Special Accommodations

Individuals requiring sign-language interpretation or other special accommodations must send a request for these services to the DFO by 5 p.m. (EDT), Friday, August 17, 2012.

VII. Panel Recommendations and Discussions

The Panel's recommendations at any Panel meeting generally are not final until they have been reviewed and approved by the Panel on the last day of the meeting, before the final adjournment. These recommendations will be posted to our web site after the meeting.

VIII. Collection of Information Requirements

This document does not impose information collection and recordkeeping requirements. Consequently, it need not be reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget under the authority of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 35).

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program; No. 93.773 Medicare—Hospital Insurance Program; and No. 93.774, Medicare—Supplementary Medical Insurance Program)

Dated: May 16, 2012.

Marilyn Tavenner,

Acting Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

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