COVID-19 Corner
The latest clinical and regulatory updates related to COVID-19

July 7, 2020

Medicare Fee-for-Service (FFS) Response to the Public Health Emergency on COVID-19

For providers and suppliers who bill Medicare FeeFor-Service (FFS).

The Secretary of the Department of Health & Human Services declared a public health emergency (PHE) in the entire United States on January 31, 2020. On March 13, 2020, Secretary Azar authorized waivers and modifications under Section 1135 of the Social Security Act (the Act), retroactive to March 1, 2020. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is issuing blanket waivers consistent with those issued for past PHE declarations. These waivers prevent gaps in access to care for beneficiaries impacted by the emergency. You do not need to apply for an individual waiver if a blanket waiver is issued.

Note: We revised the billing instructions on page 12 of this article. Changes include instructions to readmit the beneficiary on day 101 to start the Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) benefit period waiver. All other information remains the same. For providers and suppliers who bill Medicare FeeFor-Service (FFS).

Other Stories

Medicare Prior Authorization Program. Five types of surgery - blepharoplasty, botulinum toxin injections to the face, panniculectomy, rhinoplasty, and vein ablation - performed on traditional Medicare beneficiaries at hospital outpatient departments will require prior authorization as of July 1, 2020. The applicable HCPCS codes can be found here »

The ABN, Form CMS-R-131, and form instructions have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for renewal. The use of the renewed form with the expiration date of 06/30/2023 will be mandatory on 8/31/2020. More Here »