

Announcement

Reporting Hospital Quality Data for Annual Payment Update

Because of the recent Hurricanes' devastating impact, the Centers for Medicare Medicaid Services ("CMS") will grant a data submission waiver to Prospective Payment System (PPS) hospitals. Due to the hurricanes, some hospitals are unable to meet the submission of quality data requirements for the Reporting Hospital Quality Data for Annual Payment Update (RHQDAPU) for Fiscal Year 2007.

The CMS is exercising its authority to waive data submission requirements under Section 1886(b) (3) (A) (vii) (II), in the following states:

- Louisiana
- Alabama
- Florida
- Mississippi
- Texas

Background

With the passage of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act (MMA) of 2003, Congress provided a financial incentive for certain hospitals to report on the quality of inpatient care they provided to all patients. Section 501 (b) of the MMA requires an 0.4% reduction to the market basket update for PPS hospitals that do not submit a set of 10 quality measures established by the Secretary of each of Fiscal Year's 2005 through 2007. The reduction will apply only to the fiscal year involved, and will not be taken into account in computing the percentage increase for the subsequent year.

Process

The submission waiver is granted for the second, third, and fourth quarters 2005 for all hospitals in counties designated as directly affected by the storm(s) (see Appendix A for a list of counties as designated by FEMA). In addition, hospitals in other counties in these states are authorized to submit requests for a data submission waiver to their CMS Regional Division of Quality Improvement office based on individual circumstances.

Data Submission Schedule

<u>Discharges</u>	<u>Due to Clinical Warehouse</u>
2Q-05 Apr-Jun 05	Nov-15-05
3Q-05 Jul-Sep 05	Feb-15-06
4Q-05 Oct-Dec 05	May-15-06

The rationale for waivers for all three quarters is the following:

- Second quarter and third quarter 2005 - Hospital medical records were destroyed due to the storm and hospitals unable to report data for this period.

- Third quarter and fourth quarter 2005 - Discharge period relates to time where patients were relocated due to storm and hospitals inability to accurately submit data.

Under Section 1886(b) (3) (A) (vii) (II) of the Social Security Act that hospitals shall submit data in “a form and manner, and at a time, specified by the Secretary,” CMS has authority to modify the submission requirements for hospitals.

Appendix A
List of Counties by State Designated Disaster Counties
(Hurricanes Katrina and Rita)

ALABAMA

Jefferson, Bibb, Colbert, Cullman, Lamar, Lauderdale, Marion, Monroe, Perry, Wilcox, Winston and Marengo, Baldwin, Clarke, Choctaw, Mobile, Sumter, and Washington, Pickens, Greene, Hale, and Tuscaloosa Counties

FLORIDA

Bay, Collier, Escambia, Franklin, Gulf, Monroe, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, and Walton, Broward, and Miami-Dade Counties.

LOUISIANA

The parishes of Acadia, Allen, Ascension, Assumption, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Evangeline, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, Lafourche, Livingston, Orleans, Pointe Coupee, Plaquemines, Sabine, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John, St. Landry, St. Mary, St. Martin, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Vermilion, Vernon, Washington, West Baton Rouge, and West Feliciana.

MISSISSIPPI

Adams, Alcorn, Amite, Attala, Benton, Bolivar, Calhoun, Carroll, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Claiborne, Clarke, Clay, Coahoma, Copiah, Covington, DeSoto, Forrest, Franklin, George, Grenada, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Hinds, Holmes, Humphreys, Issaquena, Itawamba, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Jones, Kemper, Lafayette, Lamar, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Leake, Leflore, Lee, Lincoln, Lowndes, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Monroe, Montgomery, Neshoba, Newton, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Panola, Pearl River, Perry, Pike, Pontotoc, Prentiss, Quitman, Rankin, Scott, Sharkey, Simpson, Smith, Stone, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tate, Tippah, Tishomingo, Tunica, Union, Walthall, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Webster, Wilkinson, Winston, and Yalobusha Counties.

TEXAS

Angelina, Brazoria, Chambers, Cherokee, Galveston, Gregg, Hardin, Harrison, Houston, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Marion, Montgomery, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orange, Panola, Polk, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, Tyler, and Walker Counties.