

Hot Topics

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SAVE THE DATE:

Hargis and Associates LLC along with Encore Therapy will be hosting an MDS 3.0 update September 13th & 14th in Bowling Green. Leah Klusch, RN, BSN, FACHCA will be the presenter, she is considered an industry expert in nursing. Additional details and invitations will be sent via email at a later date.

Medicare Correspondence

Please forward any correspondence received to our office immediately. The majority of correspondence contains time sensitive information and can affect payment.

Streamlining Level of Care Processes

Department for Medicaid Services (DMS) and Deloitte are designing a system to streamline the Level of Care process. The system design should be finalized by 6/30/17, Development completed by 7/30/17 and testing will begin on 8/21/17. The scheduled "Go Live" date is 10/1/17. As of 10/1/17, Carewise will no longer accept Level of Care (MAP-726A) via fax. Between 8/21/17 and 9/28/17, DMS and Deloitte will provide half day trainings for the new Level of Care process.

SNF Quality Reporting Program: Non-Compliance Letters

CMS provided notifications to facilities that were determined to be non-compliant with Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP) requirements for Quarter 4 of CY 2016, which will affect their FY 2018 annual payment update (APU). Notifications of non-compliance were placed into facilities' Quality Improvement and Evaluation Systems (QIES) - Certification and Survey Provider Enhanced Reporting (CASPER) system on July 14, 2017 and also mailed directly to providers. Providers that receive a letter of non-compliance may submit a request for reconsideration to CMS via email no later than 11:59pm PST, August 13, 2017. If you receive a notice of non-compliance and would like to request a reconsideration, see the instructions in your notification letter and on the [SNF Quality Reporting Reconsideration and Exception & Extension](#) webpage.

CMS will delay Phase 2 penalties for one year:

CMS announced Friday they will not utilize civil money penalties, denial of payment, and/or termination. If a facility is found to be out of compliance with these new requirements beginning in November of 2017, CMS would use this year-long period to educate facilities about certain new Phase 2 quality standards by requiring a directed plan of correction or additional directed in-service training," the CMS memo states. "Enforcement for other existing standards (including Phase 1 requirements) would follow the standard process."

The one-year delay does not change the requirement implementation date of Nov. 28, 2017 — only the monetary penalties. Most facilities should expect to be surveyed for compliance with Phase 2 requirements with the revised survey within a year of that date.