



Monday, August 13, 2012

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New HHS Rules to Cut Red Tape for Doctors and Hospitals

Will save the federal government up to \$9 billion

Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced last week the release of a new rule that will cut red tape for doctors, hospitals and health plans. In combination with a previously issued regulation, the rule will save up to \$9 billion over the next ten years. The regulation adopts operating rules for making health care claim payments electronically and describing adjustments to claim payments.

The operating rules build upon industry-wide health care electronic fund transfer (EFT) standards that HHS adopted in January of this year. Together, the previously issued EFT standards and the new EFT and electronic remittance advice (ERA) operating rules are projected to save between \$2.7 billion and more than \$9 billion in administrative costs over ten years by reducing inefficient manual administrative processes for physician practices, hospitals, and health plans.

Operating rules include best business practices on how electronic transactions are transmitted and often target obstacles that physician practices and health insurers have with using electronic transactions.

This new regulation may be viewed at www.ofr.gov/inspection.aspx

The compliance date for operating rules for the health care electronic funds transfers and remittance advice transaction is Jan. 1, 2014.

A fact sheet with technical information on the rule is found at http://www.cms.gov/apps/media/fact_sheets.asp

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Medicare Prescription Drug Premiums to Remain Steady for 3rd Year

Coverage improves; out-of-pocket savings grow as a result of the health care law

Average basic premiums for Medicare prescription drug plans are projected to remain constant in 2013, Health and Human Services Secretary (HHS) Kathleen Sebelius announced last week. The average 2013 monthly premium for basic prescription drug coverage is expected to be \$30. Average premiums for 2012 were projected to be \$30 and ultimately averaged \$29.67. At the same time, since the law was enacted, seniors and people with disabilities have saved \$3.9 billion on prescription drugs as the Affordable Care Act began closing the “donut hole” coverage gap.

For more information on how the Affordable Care Act closes the Medicare drug benefit donut hole, please visit: <http://www.healthcare.gov/law/features/65-older/drug-discounts/index.html>

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Funding Opportunity

AHRQ Extends the Deadline for Funding Opportunities

The Department of Health & Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has extended the proposal submission for two of its funding opportunities. Additional information and application for both funding opportunities are available at www.grants.gov

Title: *Small Research Grant to Improve Health Care Quality through Health Information*

Focus: To support a wide variety of research designs in order to improve the quality, safety, effectiveness, and efficiency of health care through the implementation and use of health IT.

New Deadline: November 17, 2013

Title: *Exploratory and Developmental Grant to Improve Health Care Quality through Health Information Technology*

Focus: To support short-term preparatory, pilot or feasibility studies that will inform larger scale real world health IT implementation and use or the conduct of more comprehensive health IT implementation research.

New Deadline: November 17, 2013

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Stay Informed

Webinar on *Dual Eligible Demonstrations: A Critical Moment*

Twenty-six states have submitted proposals to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to integrate the delivery and financing of services for people that qualify for both Medicare and Medicaid (dual eligibles). CMS is in the process of reviewing and discussing these proposals with states now. It is expected that some proposals will be approved this Summer/Fall with implementation beginning in 2013.

This webinar will provide a general overview of the 26 state proposals that have been submitted to CMS. Beneficiary advocates will discuss common areas of promise and concern, and report on the latest developments in Washington DC. Information will also be provided on the likely next steps for the demonstrations as well as ideas for how aging and disability advocates can engage with their states as approved proposals move towards implementation.

Presenters:

Kevin Prindiville, National Senior Citizens Law Center
Fay Gordon, National Senior Citizens Law Center
Brenda Sulick, National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare
Mary Andrus, Easter Seals

Date: Wednesday, August 15, 2012

Time: 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Pacific / 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Eastern

Space is limited.

Reserve your Webinar seat now at:

<https://www4.gotomeeting.com/register/977208391>

After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Webinar.

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ACL Webinar on the National Alzheimer's Plan

The National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease defines ways that federal and state governments, along with private and nonprofit organizations, should collaborate to confront Alzheimer's - from earlier diagnosis to creating more resources to help families care for their loved ones at home. This webinar will introduce key National Plan goals and actions useful to those who provide

home and community-based services for older adults and individuals with disabilities, including actions focused on people with intellectual disabilities.

Date: Tuesday, August 21, 2012

Time: 11:00 a.m. PT / 12:00 p.m. MT / 1:00 p.m. CT / 2:00 p.m. ET

[Register Now](#) (should link to: <https://aoa-events.webex.com/aoa-events/onstage/g.php?d=663026198&t=a>)

Participants in this web seminar learn about:

The prevalence of dementias, as well as their impact on health and long term services and supports programs for persons of all ages

The Obama Administration's response to the challenges posed by this set of diseases, which includes collaboration across and within federal agencies to implement the National Alzheimer's Project Act

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Interactive Webinars on the Health Care Law

The HHS Partnership Center continues to host a series of interactive webinars discussing the benefits and provisions of the health care law, the Affordable Care Act.

All webinars are open to the public and include a question and answer session where you can ask HHS staff any question you may have about the health care law. Please submit questions you would like to have answered on the webinar to ACA101@hhs.gov

To participate in one of the webinars, please select your preferred dates from the list below and submit the necessary information.

[August 21, 2:00 pm ET](#) – Tour of www.HealthCare.gov

[August 28, 2:00 pm ET](#) – The Health Care Law 101 (in Spanish)

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Webinar Reminders

Protect Your Finances: Ask AARP

Join AARP's financial security team for a free webinar as they answer all of your questions about ensuring the security of your nest egg.

Date: Tuesday, August 14, 2012
Time: 2:00 p.m., ET

Submit a question in advance by emailing moneywebinars@aarp.org

Register at <http://bit.ly/NePhfx>

Closed captioning available.

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Transportation and Taxi Voucher Programs: Creating Flexible Options for People with Disabilities

Sponsored by Easter Seals Project ACTION, this free webinar will explain the workings of community transportation voucher programs, such as the major players and stakeholders required to help start a program, the operational and policy considerations that must be examined and marketing strategies that can be used to maximize the program's impacts.

Date: Wednesday, August 15, 2012
Time: 2:00-3:30 p.m. ET | 1:00-2:30 p.m. CT | 12:00-1:30 p.m. MT | 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. PT

Register by August 13 by emailing registration@easterseals.com or calling 800-659-6428 or by TTY at 202-347-7385.

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How to Balance Work and At-Home Care

This webinar will offer tools to use in caregiving, at work, and for yourself in order to help you find balance in your life.

Date: Wednesday, August 15, 2012-08-02
Time: 10:00 a.m. PT / 11:00 a.m. Mt / 12:00 p.m. CT / 1:00 p.m. ET

[Register Now!](#)

This webinar is a part of the American Society on Aging Family Caregiver Support Series, sponsored by Home Instead Senior Care.

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LTQA Webinars

Sponsored by the Long-Term Quality Alliance (LTQA) this webinar will address LTSS (long term services and supports).

The webinar will:

- Describe LTSS and the impact of transitions on older adults receiving long term services and supports (LTSS)
- Examine the impact of the Affordable Care Act on improving care transitions for older adults receiving LTSS
- Discuss the opportunities and threats presented by three provisions for improving care transitions
- Describe short- and long-term policy strategies that will ensure the law's effective implementation and improve health and quality of life and reduce costs for older adults receiving LTSS.

[Click Here to Register for the August 28th webinar](#) featuring David C. Grabowski, PhD, Professor of Health Care Policy at Harvard Medical School.

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Tools & Information

NOD Cited As Nonprofit Leader

The National Organization on Disability (NOD) was recently recognized as a leader in philanthropy by two of the nation's premier nonprofit evaluators: Charity Navigator (<http://www.charitynavigator.org/>) and Philanthropedia (<http://www.myphilanthropedia.org>), a division of GuideStar.

NOD received a [4-star rating](#) - the highest possible rating - from Charity Navigator. Additionally, it was included in Philanthropedia's list of the [Top 10 nonprofits related to people with disabilities](#).

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GSA Honors ACL Consultant Sidney Stahl

The Gerontological Society of America (GSA) has chosen Sidney M. Stahl, PhD, as the 2012 recipient of the Donald P. Kent Award. This distinguished honor is given annually to a GSA member who best exemplifies the highest standards for professional leadership in gerontology through teaching, service and interpretation of gerontology to the larger society. The award was established in 1973 in memory of Donald P. Kent, PhD, for his outstanding leadership in translating research findings into practical use. The presentation will take

place at GSA's 65th Annual Scientific Meeting, which will be held from November 14 to 18.

Currently, Stahl serves as an expert consultant to the US Administration for Community Living/Administration on Aging in implementing the portion of the Affordable Care Act that creates an Elder Justice Coordinating Council. The council is tasked with coordinating activities throughout the federal government on elder abuse, neglect and financial exploitation. Stahl's expertise in the identification, prevention and treatment of elder abuse was recognized in 2000, when he was asked to brief then US Attorney General Janet Reno on the national research agenda in this area.

Stahl retired in April 2012 from the National Institute on Aging (NIA), where he served as the chief of the Individual Behavioral Processes Branch within the Behavioral and Social Research Program. Prior to joining NIA, Stahl was a professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Purdue University. To read more about the GSA's recognition of Dr. Stahl visit the website at <http://www.geron.org/>

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Perspectives on Nutrition and Aging: A National Summit – Virtual Registration Is Now Open

The AoA-MOWAA (Administration on Aging-Meals On Wheels Association of America) National Resource Center on Nutrition and Aging is thrilled to announce that nearly 500 people have already registered to come to Washington, DC, to celebrate, imagine and build the future of senior nutrition with us at [**Perspectives on Nutrition and Aging: A National Summit**](#) on August 23, 2012.

We are pleased to announce that we will be livestreaming the Summit for all of those who would like to take part in this groundbreaking event, but who are unable to attend in person. Anyone with a computer and an Internet connection can register to be a Virtual Attendee at this event.

A \$20 Virtual Registration will grant you access to:

A real-time online broadcast of all Summit sessions, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Submit questions and comments for the Panelists.

Download all materials and reports.

Additionally, there are still spaces available to attend the event in person at the Gaylord National Harbor Hotel. The registration fee for the full Summit is \$50, including all materials, a luncheon with keynote speaker Dr. David L. Katz, and admission to all Summit sessions.

Perspectives on Nutrition and Aging: A National Summit, celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Nutrition Programs under the Older Americans Act, will bring together a broad array of individuals and organizations from across the country for a day of future-focused dialogue around the critical link between nutrition and health in the context of a rapidly aging nation.

For more information and to register for Virtual or in-person attendance, visit <http://summit.nutritionandaging.org>. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Erika Kelly or Suzanne Grubb at resourcecenter@mowaa.org or 703-548-5558.

Building the future will involve collaboration, innovation and courage from all of us. We hope you will join us.

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Subaru *Share the Love* Event

Vote for your favorite charity to be part of the Subaru *Share the Love* event. The top two charities will join ASPCA[®], Make-A-Wish[®] and Meals On Wheels Association of America[®] as participants in this year's event. Starting November 21, Subaru will donate up to \$5 million to five charities. Yours could be one of them. Vote daily, now through August 26
https://www.facebook.com/subaruofamerica/app_345388515542172

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ASA Is Now Accepting Nominations for Its 2013 Awards Program

Every year the Americans Society on Aging (ASA) recognizes a number of individuals and organizations for their contributions to ASA, to the field of aging and to older adults. The 2013 nomination process for the nine award categories has begun. For more information, including the criteria for each category, go to <http://www.asaging.org/awards>

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Recent Reports

CDC Vital Signs – More People Walk to Better health
<http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/Walking/index.html>
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Date: August 2012

United States of Aging Survey Report

<http://www.ncoa.org/improve-health/community-education/united-states-of-aging/united-states-of-aging.html>

Source: United Healthcare, USA Today and National Council on Aging

Date: August 2012

Heartbeat - Cardiovascular Disease: What You Can Do to Improve Your Heart Health

<http://www.menshealthnetwork.org/library/Heartbeat.pdf>

Source: Men's Health Network

Date: August 7, 2012

Best Cities for Successful Aging

<http://successfulaging.milkeninstitute.org/best-cities-successful-aging.pdf>

Source: Milken Institute

Date: July 2012

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Employment Opportunity

The National Association of State mental Health Program Directors Research Institute is looking for a new Executive Director. For more information, contact Bart Ribakow, bribakow@arthurdiamond.com; 301-654-9874

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Reminder: HCBS Conference Is Coming in September

This year's Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Conference is being held at the Hyatt Regency in Crystal City, VA on September 11-13, 2012. The HCBS conference is the conference for anyone interested in state long term care services and supports programs.

The nation's long term care system is in the midst of historic transformation from institutional care to individualized home and community services. Integrating service delivery systems for the dually eligible, investing in Medicaid Managed long term care, mitigating budget challenges while preserving the long term services and supports network, averting litigation, and managing reorganization and change are only some of the challenges that the aging and disability network face on a daily basis. The conference will be attended by federal, state and local policymakers and those who work in the Aging and Disability fields.

This year on Monday, September 10th, the conference planners have added a Learning Symposium to the agenda. This Symposium will provide topic specific intensive learning resources to those who administer, manage and

deliver services under grants, waivers and HCBS programs. The additional day is also providing an opportunity for meetings by the National Association of State Head Injury Administration (NASHIA), The Consumer Voice and The National Association of States United for Aging and Disability (NASUAD).

For conference details, including full agenda, hotel and registration information, go to <http://www.cvent.com/events/2012-hcbs-registration/event-summary-1095cc34bebf4669b6d8c743da2ed3a3.aspx>

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