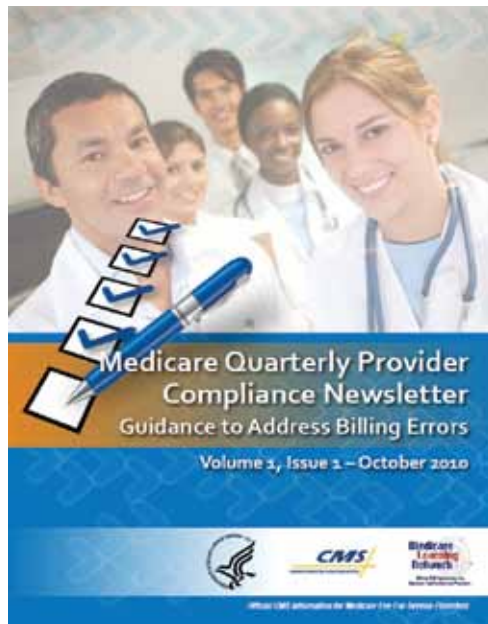


CMS Introduces New Resource to Help Providers Avoid Medicare Compliance Issues

The *Medicare Quarterly Provider Compliance Newsletter* is a new Medicare Learning Network (MLN) educational product. The resource is intended to help physicians, providers, and their billing staffs understand how to avoid certain billing errors and other improper activities, such as failure to submit timely medical record documentation, when dealing with the Medicare Fee-For-Service (FFS) program.

The newsletter highlights, where appropriate, the consequences related to these billing errors or noncompliance with Medicare regulations and policies. It also provides summary information about claims processing, medical review, program integrity, and other compliance-related issues. The newsletter describes the issue, the problems that may occur as a result of the issue, the steps the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has taken to make providers aware of the issue, and recommendations on what providers need to do to avoid the problem. In addition, the newsletter refers providers to other documents for more detailed information where such documents exist.

In this first edition, CMS presents a number of issues that impact a variety of provider types as a way to introduce the product to a wide audience of providers. Future issues will focus on the “top” issues of that particular quarter; therefore, it may focus on a single provider type or a particular set of items or services. Many of the issues presented are uncovered as a result of reviews by the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) and/or the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The issues are also identified by CMS activities



and those of its contractors, such as the Recovery Audit Contractors (RACs), Program Safeguard Contractors, Zone Program Integrity Contractors, and Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs).

The newsletter is available online at: http://www.cms.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/MedQtrlyComp_Newsletter_ICN904943.pdf.

GAO Appoints PCORI Board Members

On Sept. 24, 2010, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) began the process of implementing the comparative-effectiveness research mandated by the Affordable Care Act (ACA) by announcing the appointment of 19 members to the Board of Governors for the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). These board members serve staggered six-year terms, and can be reappointed once.

Commissioners whose first term will expire in September 2016:

- Eugene Washington, MD, MSc, vice chancellor, UCLA Health Sciences, and dean of the School of Medicine at the University of California Los Angeles. Dr. Washington will serve as chair of the Board of Governors.
- Steven Lipstein, MHA, president and CEO of BJC Health Care. Lipstein will serve as vice-chair.
- Christine Goertz, DC, PhD, vice chancellor for Research and Health Policy at the Palmer College of Chiropractic and Palmer Center for Chiropractic Research.
- Sharon Levine, MD, associate executive director for The Permanente Medical Group of Northern California.
- Ellen Sigal, PhD, chair and founder of Friends of Cancer Research.
- Harlan Weisman, MD, chief science and technology officer for Medical Devices and Diagnostics at Johnson & Johnson.
- Robert Zwolak, MD, PhD, vascular surgeon at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center and professor of surgery at the Dartmouth Medical School.

Commissioners whose first term will expire in September 2014:

- Lawrence Becker, director of Strategic Partnerships and Alliances at the Xerox Corporation.
- Arnold Epstein, MD, professor and chair of the Department of Health Policy and Management at Harvard University School of Public Health.
- Andrew Imparato, JD, president and CEO of the American Association of People with Disabilities.
- Robert Jesse, MD, PhD, principal deputy under secretary for Health and national program director for Cardiology at the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Freda Lewis-Hall, MD, chief medical officer and senior vice

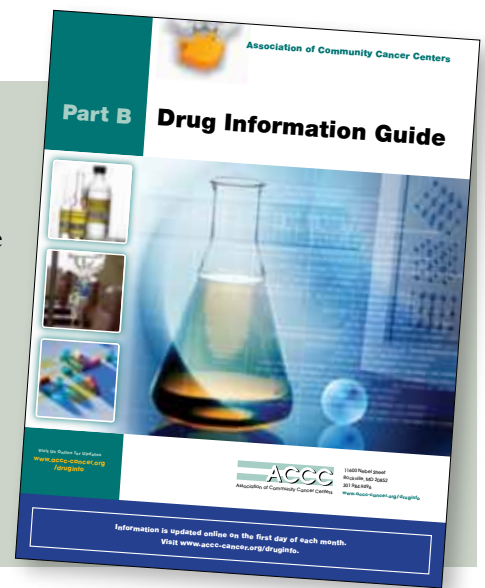
ACCC Launches its Part B—Drug Information Guide

In an effort to help oncologists and pharmacists, as well as oncology support and administrative staff, navigate the increasingly complex area of drug information and coverage, this new ACCC resource is a compilation of oncology drugs from the nationally recognized drug compendia, as well as the conditions that the compendia list for these drugs.

ACCC's Part B—Drug Infor-

mation Guide is designed as an easy-to-use listing—both in print and online. It is the first step in determining whether there is evidence on the appropriateness of use of an oncology drug for a specific oncology-related condition

Note: Online information will be updated on the first of each month. The print edition will be updated and mailed annually. To access the online edition, go to: <http://www.accc-cancer.org/druginfo/>. New visitors will have to register one time only.



president of the Pfizer Medical Division.

- Grayson Norquist, MD, MSPH, professor and chairman of the Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior, University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Commissioners whose first term will expire in September 2012:

- Debra Barksdale, PhD, RN, associate professor at the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel

Hill School of Nursing.

- Kerry Barnett, JD, executive vice president of Corporate Services and Chief Legal Officer for The Regence Group.
- Allen Douma, MD, CEO of Empower, LLC, and a member of the AARP Board of Directors.
- Leah Hole-Curry, JD, program director for the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) program at the Washington State Health Care Authority.

- Harlan Krumholz, MD, professor of Medicine and Epidemiology and Public Health at Yale University School of Medicine.
- Richard E. Kuntz, MD, senior vice president and chief scientific, clinical, and regulatory officer at Medtronic, Inc.

Brief biographies of the new board members are available on the GAO website at www.gao.gov/press/pconri2010sep23.html.

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