

Provider

Alert

Passport
advantage
YOUR CHOICE FOR MEDICARE
ADMINISTERED BY AMERIS HEALTH MERCY / A PASSPORT HEALTH PLAN PROGRAM

Subject: Reminder – Hospitals Required to Notify Inpatient Medicare Beneficiaries of Discharge Rights

From: Passport Advantage

Sent: July 7, 2008

To: Passport Advantage Hospitals

Provider Types Affected:

All Passport Advantage Hospitals

Background:

Effective July 2, 2007, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) ruled that hospitals must notify inpatient Medicare beneficiaries of their hospital discharge rights and appeal rights at the time of admission, using a revised version of the Important Message from Medicare (IM).

Hospitals must also provide a revised version of the Detailed Notice of Discharge (Detailed Notice) to inpatient Medicare beneficiaries who request more information or choose to appeal a discharge decision.

Both the IM and Detailed Notice must be the standardized notices provided by CMS. These are available on the CMS web site as listed below.

Hospital Action Needed:

- 1. Issue the Important Message from Medicare (IM) to Passport Advantage members in person and within two (2) calendar days of admission.** Hospitals must also obtain a signature from the member (or his or her representative) and retain a hard copy or electronic file of the signed IM.
- 2. Provide the Detailed Notice of Discharge to Passport Advantage members who request more information or choose to appeal a discharge decision.** The Detailed Notice must be delivered as soon as possible, but **no later than noon of the day after the appeal** is made. The hospital must retain a hard copy or electronic file.

Resources and Questions:

For more information, visit the CMS web site at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/BNI/12_HospitalDischargeAppealNotices.asp.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your Provider Relations representative or the Provider Relations department at (502) 585-7943.

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