Medicare Hot Topics with Traditional Medicare, Vaccines Campaign Awareness, and Understanding Medicare Open Enrollment

Part A Fall Virtual Conference: Ending on a Strong Medicare Note
11/2/2023

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Objective

In this session, we will discuss current Traditional Medicare Hot Topics, the latest Vaccination Campaign, and Understand Medicare Open Enrollment & Resources for your staff and patients. This session is for Part A providers such as hospitals, CAH, SNF, etc. billing, compliance, nurses, and any medical and support staff.

Today's Presenters

- Michael Dorris, NGS Jurisdiction Affairs Lead

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- Gregg McAllister, Health Information Specialist, CMS Chicago - Office of Local Engagement and Administration

Agenda

Current Traditional Medicare Hot Topics

Vaccine Updates and Campaign

Medicare Open Enrollment & Resources

Questions and Answers

Medicare Hot Topics

What is the Medicare Program?

- Federally-administered health insurance program which covers people over 65 years of age and certain younger people with disabilities or ESRD

- Medicare benefits offer coverage for
  - ✓ Part A - Hospital Insurance
    - Inpatient – ex, hospital, SNF, CAH, FQHC, RHC, and HH+H
  - ✓ Part B – Supplementary Medical Insurance (SMI)
    - Examples: Outpatient (Part B of A), Physician (Part B)
  - ✓ Part C - MAO/HMO
    - Example: Medicare Advantage
  - ✓ Part D - Prescription drugs

National Government Services

- Traditional fee-for-service contractor serving over 20 million people with Medicare in 20 states and 5 U.S. territories
- NGS serves 240 members of Congress
- NGS administers Medicare for Jurisdictions 6 and K (J6 and JK)
  - Medicare Part A (hospital insurance), SNF, RHC, and Medicare Part B (medical insurance)
  - Medicare home health and hospice for large number of states
  - Medicare free-standing FQHC contract in all territories and nearly all states
  - Develops and maintains web-based self-service tools
    - ✓ Allows Medicare providers to have millions of interactions to answer their educational and billing needs
- [NGS Website](#)

What's a MAC and more

- [What's a MAC | CMS](#)

  List of MACs by state: [Who are the MACs | CMS](#)

Did You Know

CMS Strategic Plan

CMS serves the public as a trusted partner and steward, dedicated to advancing health equity, expanding coverage, and improving health outcomes.

STRATEGIC PILLARS

ADVANCE EQUITY

Advance health equity by addressing the health disparities that underlie our health system

EXPAND ACCESS

Build on the Affordable Care Act and expand access to quality, affordable health coverage and care

ENGAGE PARTNERS

Engage our partners and the communities we serve throughout the policymaking and implementation process

DRIVE INNOVATION

Drive Innovation to tackle our health system challenges and promote valuebased, personcentered care

PROTECT PROGRAMS

Protect our programs' sustainability for future generations by serving as a responsible steward of public funds

FOSTER EXCELLENCE

Foster a positive and inclusive workplace and workforce, and promote excellence in all aspects of CMS' operations

CMS and Resources

- [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services | CMS](#) – Updated
- CMS has many helpful resources available
  - [MLN Publications & Multimedia](#)
- Did you know that CMS offers web-based training (WBT) courses?
  - [MLN Web-Based Training](#)
  - Many professional associations accept CMS' MLN WBT courses for continuing education credit
- [CMS YouTube Videos](#)
- [CMS Twitter](#): @CMSGov

Acute Hospital Care at Home

- Acute Hospital Care at Home began as part of a comprehensive effort to increase hospital capacity, maximize resources, and combat COVID-19 to keep people safe

- The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 extended the initiative through 12/31/2024

- Hospitals can still apply to participate at Qualitynet.cms.gov/acute-hospital-care-at-home

Telehealth – FQHC/RHC and REH

- Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)/Rural Health Clinic (RHC) can serve as a distant site provider for non-behavioral/mental telehealth services

- FQHC and RHC furnish behavioral/mental telehealth visits through telecommunications technology

- Rural Emergency Hospitals (REH) are eligible originating sites for telehealth under certain circumstances

Hospital Off-Campus Outpatient Provider-based Department Update

- Ensure your addresses for claims submission software matches EXACTLY with PECOS

- There are requirements to follow

- Claim filing requirements

- For more information
  - [Billing - NGSMEDICARE](#)

Appeals Tip Sheet

- Tip Sheet for Medicare Providers on First Level of Appeals (Redeterminations)

  - Be timely and valid in submission
  - Be appropriate in submission
  - Be patient after your submission
  - Be forthcoming of a point of contact
  - Be prompt in requests
  - Be thorough in response

- [About Appeals - NGSMEDICARE](#)

Hospital Price Transparency

- Hospitals in compliance – Learn More

- Consumers awareness – Learn More

- Complaint – Contact Us

- For more information – Hospital Price Transparency

Frequently Asked Questions – Reviewed & Updated

- [Welcome to NGSMedicare.com](#) to locate FAQ

- Part A
  - [Help And FAQs – NGSMEDICARE](#)

- FQHC/RHC
  - [Help And FAQs - NGSMEDICARE](#)

Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Billing Prohibitions

Dually Eligible Beneficiaries

- Dually eligible beneficiaries generally describe low-income beneficiaries enrolled in both Medicare and Medicaid

- Includes beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare Part A, Part B, or both and getting full Medicaid benefits or only help with Medicare premiums or cost-sharing through one of the Medicare Savings Programs eligibility groups

Medicare Savings Programs

- Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB)

  - Pays Part A and Part B premiums, deductibles, coinsurance and copayments

- Specific Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB)

  - Pays only the Part B premium

- Qualifying Individual (QI)

  - Pays only Part B premium

    - ✓ Individuals in this program have no other Medicaid eligibility

- Qualified Disabled Working Individual (QDWI)

  - Pays only Part A premium for certain individuals under age 65 with disabilities who have returned to work

QMB and Cost-Sharing

- Medicare providers **cannot** bill QMB beneficiaries for Medicare cost-sharing

- This includes Medicare deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments

- In some cases, a beneficiary may owe a small Medicaid copayment

- Medicare and Medicaid payments (if any) are considered payment in full

- Providers are subject to sanctions if they bill a QMB above the total Medicare and Medicaid payments, even when Medicaid pays nothing

Medicare Beneficiaries & Caregivers

- Annual Version of Medicare & You Publication – a CMS Handbook for Medicare Beneficiaries – published annually in various versions
  - Beneficiary Resources
  - 1-800-Medicare (1-800-633-4227) / (TTY users: 1-877-486-2048)
    - ✓ Available 24 hours/day; 7 days/week
    - ✓ To speak to a live person: either say "agent: or press 0

- Medicare.gov

- State Health Insurance Assistance Program - SHIP (Find Your State SHIP Resource – local assistance)

- Senior Medicare Patrol (Find Your State SMP Resource – local assistance)

- Social Security Administration

QMB Resources

- [Dually Eligible Individuals Categories](#)

- [CMS OM Publication 100-04, *Medicare Claims Processing Manual,* Chapter 1](#)
  - Section 200 – Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Program

- [Medicare Savings Programs](#)

- [Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) Program](#)

- [Program Operations Manual System](#)
  - SSA Role in Medicare Savings Programs (MSP) Applications

- MLN Matters® [*SE1128 Revised: Prohibition on Billing Dually Eligible Individuals Enrolled in QMB Program*](#)

Vaccines Updates & Campaign

Vaccine Coverage Under Medicare Part B

- Hepatitis B
  - Beneficiaries at high or intermediate risk of contracting Hepatitis B
  - Hepatitis B Shot and Administration
    - ✓ Order is required

- COVID-19
  - COVID-19 Vaccine Shot Payment
  - Medicare Billing for COVID-19 Vaccine Shot Administration

Vaccine Coverage Under Medicare Part B

- Influenza
  - Typically administered once a flu season
  - [Flu Shot and Administration](#)
    - ✓ Order is not required

- Pneumococcal Pneumonia
  - Adults 65 years and older should receive 1 dose, 2nd dose 1 year after
  - Adults 19-64 with certain underlying medical conditions should receive 1 dose, 2nd dose 1 year after
  - [Pneumococcal Shot and Administration](#)
    - ✓ Order is not required

Vaccines Covered under Medicare Part D

- Shingles

- RSV

- Tetanus/diphtheria (TD)

- Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough) (Tdap)

- Hepatitis A

- Hepatitis B (low risk)

Information to Share for FREE COVID Tests

- COVID Home Tests | USPS

- Need help placing an order for your at-home tests?
  Call 1-800-232-0233 (TTY 1-888-720-7489).

- The U.S. government will continue to make COVID-19 tests available to uninsured individuals and underserved communities through existing outreach programs.

- Please contact a HRSA health center, Test to Treat site, or ICATT location near you to learn how to access low- or no-cost COVID-19 tests provided by the federal government.

Information to Share with People with Disabilities

- The Disability Information and Access Line (DIAL) helps people with disabilities get connected to information about local community resources that support independent living. Launched in 2021 to help people with disabilities access COVID-19 vaccinations, DIAL also provides information about essential services such as transportation, housing support, disability rights, and more.

- [Home | DIAL (acl.gov)](acl.gov)

How Medicare Provider can Push Vaccines

- Ensure Medicare patients remain current with flu, pneumonia, COVID-19, and other vaccinations especially those with chronic diseases.

- Make sure a high-dose flu vaccine is given to people 65 and older

- Remind Medicare patients that they are eligible for the pneumonia booster

- Encourage flu & pneumonia vaccine during in-person or telehealth visits for Welcome to Medicare and Annual Wellness Visit (AWV)

- Flu and Pneumonia vaccinations are encouraged to help keep Medicare patients out of the hospital/ER where COVID-19 exposure would be increased

- Utilize Nurses and Medical Assistants to foster a culture of immunization with your Medicare patients

Immunization Resources

- CMS Vaccine Pricing Resource

- Letter from HHS Secretary on COVID-19 Vaccine Coverage

- CDC Respiratory Virus Updates

- Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

- Stay Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines

- Search for Flu Vaccine Locations at Vaccines.gov

- MLN908764 – Medicare Part D Vaccines (cms.gov)

Medicare Open Enrollment & Resources

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▶ **YouTube Channel**
Educational Videos

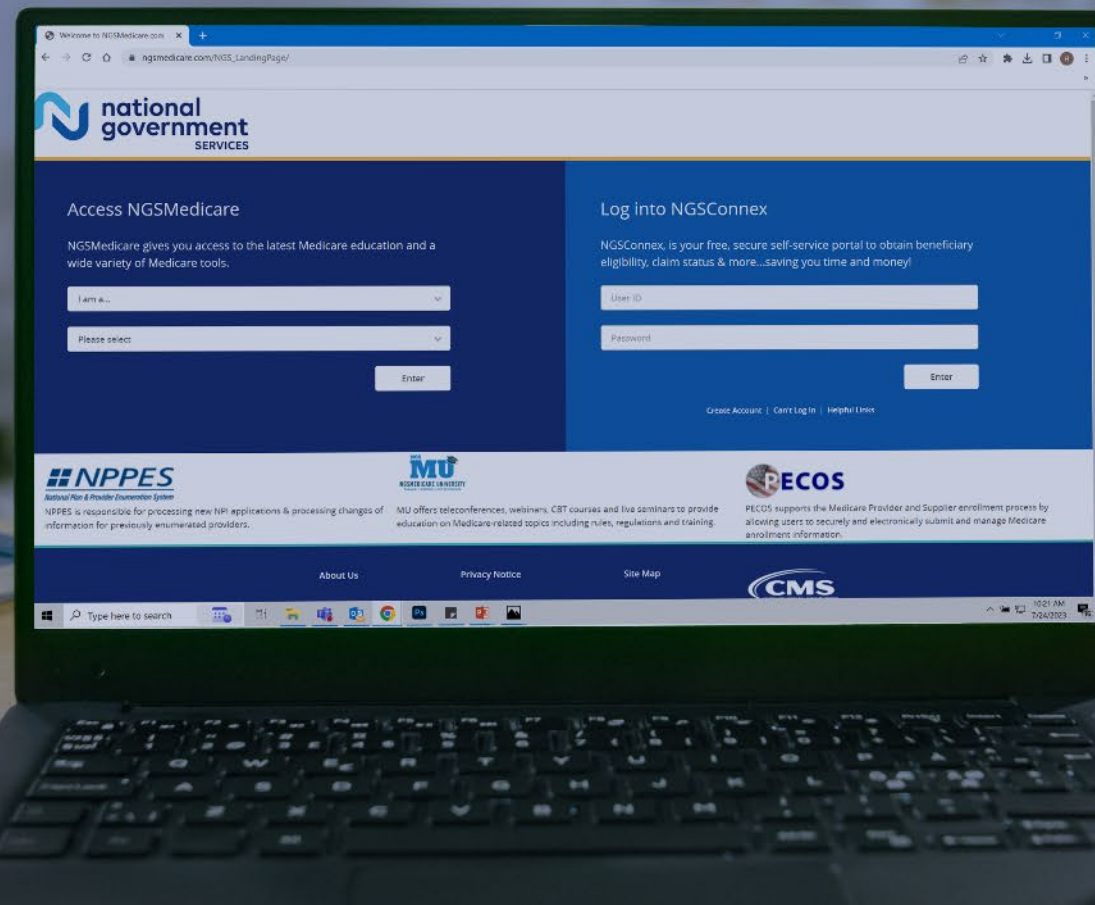medicare **mobile**
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LinkedIn
Educational Content

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Online resources, event calendar, LCD/NCD, and tools

IVR System
The interactive voice response system (IVR) is available 24-hours a day, seven days a week to answer general inquiries

NGSConnex
Web portal for claim information

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