



# News

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*OUTSOURCE YOUR BILLING AND ACCOUNTING TO THE HOME HEALTH CONSULTANTS AT TAD!*

## COMMON WORKING FILE (CWF) MODIFICATION

**Effective Date: Jan 01, 2018**

**Subject:** The centers of Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) are requiring CWF to modify CWF provider Queries to only accept NPI as a valid Provider Number.

**Provider types Affected:** Physicians, Providers and suppliers querying Medicare's Common Working File (CWF) for checking eligibility and entitlement status for Medicare Beneficiaries.

• Currently providers, clearing houses and/or third party vendors referred as "Trading Partners" verify individual Medicare eligibility and entitlement status prior to and/or while receiving services before billing Medicare for services rendered using HIPPA Eligibility Transaction System (HETS) and/or CWF.

Within CWF trading partners use Queries like ELGA, ELGH, HIQA, HIQH and HUQA. Currently Trading partners are allowed to use either Legacy provider number (CCN) or Unique Physician identification Number (UPIN) or NPI on provider's queries.

• This Modification is about informing MACs about modifications to the CWF provider queries to only accept the National Provider Identifier (NPI) as a valid provider Number.

• The official instruction, CR10098, issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-andGuidance/Guidance/Transmittals/2017Downloads/R1976OTN.pdf>

**Medicare and TAD offices will be closed on the following days:**

November 23rd and 24th, December 25th and January 1<sup>st</sup>

## HHAs: Payment Changes for 2018

- On November 1, CMS issued a final rule that updates the CY 2018 Medicare payment rates and the wage index for Home Health Agencies (HHAs) serving Medicare beneficiaries. The rule also finalizes proposals for the Home Health Value-Based Purchasing Model and the Home Health Quality Reporting Program.
- CMS projects that Medicare payments to HHAs in CY 2018 will be reduced by 0.4 percent, or \$80 million, based on the finalized policies. This decrease reflects the effects of a one percent home health payment update percentage (\$190 million increase); a -0.97 percent adjustment to the national, standardized 60-day episode payment rate to account for nominal case-mix growth for an impact of -0.9 percent (\$170 million decrease); and the sunset of the rural add-on provision (\$100 million decrease).
- The Final Rule also includes the Patients over Paperwork Initiative. For More Information see the full text of this excerpted [CMS Fact Sheet](#) (issued November 1).

## LOOK WHAT FLU IN !!!!!

The Flu vaccination can keep you from getting sick with the flu and is an important prevention tool for people with chronic health conditions. Flu vaccination has been associated with lower rates of some cardiac (heart) events among people with heart disease, especially among those who experienced a cardiac event in the past year. Flu vaccination also has been associated with reduced hospitalizations among people with diabetes (79%) and chronic lung disease (52%). Source: CDC



Visit us at [www.tad-usa.com](http://www.tad-usa.com) for helpful links to information you need to know for your agency!!!

## TAD FREE WEBINARS

TAD Webinars include a variety of topics that will help agency owners and administrators keep current on the latest topics that impact Home Health Agencies. The following Webinars held on Thursday's from 2-3pm EST are open for registration:

**Accounting and Tax issues for Home Health Agencies:** December 14<sup>th</sup>

**Cost Reports and PS&R:** January 11<sup>th</sup>

For more information about these webinars, or to register, visit us at [www.tad-usa.com](http://www.tad-usa.com) and select "Free Webinars." Space will be limited, so please be sure to register early. Registration for webinars is only available on line. Please note that Webinars are scheduled based on the **Eastern** time zone. New webinars and dates will be posted regularly, so visit us often at [www.tad-usa.com](http://www.tad-usa.com). We hope you will join us!!!!

## **INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHT:**

**"Life isn't about getting and having, it's about giving and being.."**

**- Kevin Kruse**

