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

New Option for Submission of Medicare Cost Reports

As part of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) commitment to decrease the hours and dollars clinicians and providers spend on CMS-mandated compliance and increase the proportion of tasks that CMS customers can do digitally, a new web portal will be made available to submit a Medicare Cost Report (MCR). Specifically, Part A providers will have the option to electronically transmit their MCR through the Medicare Cost Report e-Filing (MCR eF) system. MCR eF will be available for cost reporting periods ending on or after December 31, 2017.

Part A providers will experience the following benefits from using MCR eF:

- Large provider chain organizations will electronically submit MCRs to one system instead of transmitting their MCRs to their assigned Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) jurisdiction's portals or physical mailing addresses;
- A MCR submitted through MCR eF will be automatically directed to the correct MAC eliminating the risk of submitting the MCR to an incorrect MAC;
- Providers will receive immediate feedback on the submission accuracy of their MCR;
- Providers will save time compiling the paperwork (files) needed to create electronic media and mail the MCR package;
- Providers will have until 11:59 p.m., eastern time, on the due date to submit the MCR instead of having to obtain a postmark date no later than the due date;
- MCR eF has a simple, straightforward user interface with just one screen; and
- Reduces provider confusion due to conflicting MAC acceptability rules.

We encourage providers to continue to monitor CMS' website or their assigned MAC's website for more detailed information on the MCR eF in the coming months.

Source: cms.gov

Medicare Expired Legislative Provisions Extended and Other Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 Provisions

On February 9, 2018, President Trump signed into law the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018. This new law includes several provisions related to Medicare payment.

With regard to payment for outpatient therapy services, the law repeals application of the Medicare outpatient therapy caps but retains the former cap amounts as a threshold above which claims must include the KX modifier as a confirmation that services are medically necessary as justified by appropriate documentation in the medical record; and retains the targeted medical review process, but at a lower threshold amount. It also extends several recently expired Medicare legislative provisions affecting health care providers and beneficiaries, including the Medicare physician fee schedule work geographic adjustment floor, add-on payments for ambulance services and home health rural services, changes to the payment adjustment for low volume hospitals, and the Medicare dependent hospital program.

Section 50208 – Extension of Home Health Rural Add-On (beginning in 2019) - Beginning in 2019 and subsequent years, the new law puts in place a home health rural add-on payment that varies by year across three different tiers of rural counties in which home health services are furnished: (1) rural counties in the highest quartile of all counties with respect to the number of Medicare home health episodes furnished per 100 individuals who are entitled to, or enrolled for, benefits under Part A or Part B (but not enrolled in a plan under part C) (2) rural counties with a population density of 6 or fewer individuals that are not in the above highest quartile of home health utilization and (3) all other rural counties. Implementation of this provision will require notice and comment rulemaking.

Source: cms.gov

2018 Optional Standard Mileage Rates

The Internal Revenue Service issued the 2018 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes.

Beginning on Jan. 1, 2018, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

54.5 cents for every mile of business travel driven, up 1 cent from the rate for 2017.

18 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes, up 1 cent from the rate for 2017.

14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations.

The business mileage rate and the medical and moving expense rates each increased 1 cent per mile from the rates for 2017. The charitable rate is set by statute and remains unchanged.

The standard mileage rate for business is based on an annual study of the fixed and variable costs of operating an automobile. The rate for medical and moving purposes is based on the variable costs.

Taxpayers always have the option of calculating the actual costs of using their vehicle rather than using the standard mileage rates.

A taxpayer may not use the business standard mileage rate for a vehicle after using any depreciation method under the Modified Accelerated Cost Recovery System (MACRS) or after claiming a Section 179 deduction for that vehicle. In addition, the business standard mileage rate cannot be used for more than four vehicles used simultaneously. These and other requirements are described in [Rev. Proc. 2010-51](#).

[Notice 2018-03](#), posted today on IRS.gov, contains the standard mileage rates, the amount a taxpayer must use in calculating reductions to basis for depreciation taken under the business standard mileage rate, and the maximum standard automobile cost that a taxpayer may use in computing the allowance under a fixed and variable rate plan.

Source: irs.gov



Visit us at 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 from 2-3pm EST are open for registration:

Outliers: the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Thursday, March 15th

Billing at a Glance: Wednesday, April 18th

For more information about these webinars, or to register, visit us at 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. We hope you will join us!!!!

INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHT:

The best revenge is massive success!

- Frank Sinatra

