

Blanket Waivers for Hurricane Florence

- **Skilled Nursing Facilities**

1812(f): This waiver of the requirement for a 3-day prior hospitalization for coverage of a skilled nursing facility stay provides temporary emergency coverage of Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) services without a qualifying hospital stay, for those people who are evacuated, transferred, or otherwise dislocated as a result of the effect of a disaster or emergency. In addition, for certain beneficiaries who recently exhausted their SNF benefits, it authorizes renewed SNF coverage without first having to start a new benefit period. Separate clearance document to be distributed for clearance once the 1135 waiver is signed.

483.20: This waiver provides relief to Skilled Nursing Facilities on the timeframe requirements for Minimum Data Set assessments and transmission.

- **Home Health Agencies**

484.20(c)(1): This waiver provides relief to Home Health Agencies on the timeframes related to OASIS Transmission.

- **Critical Access Hospitals**

This action waives the requirements that Critical Access Hospitals limit the number of beds to 25, and that the length of stay be limited to 96 hours.

- **Housing Acute Care Patients In Excluded Distinct Part Units**

Allows the authority to house acute care inpatients in excluded distinct part units, where the distinct part unit's beds are appropriate for acute care inpatient. The inpatient prospective payment system (IPPS) hospital should bill for the care and annotate the patient's medical record to indicate the patient is an acute care inpatient being housed in the excluded unit because of capacity issues related to the disaster or emergency.

- **Durable Medical Equipment**

Allows the authority to suppliers of Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) where DMEPOS is lost, destroyed, irreparably damaged, or otherwise rendered unusable. Under this waiver, the face-to-face requirement, a new physician's order, and new medical necessity documentation are not required for replacement. Suppliers must still include a narrative description on the claim explaining the reason why the equipment must be replaced and are reminded to maintain documentation indicating that the DMEPOS was lost, destroyed, irreparably damaged or otherwise rendered unusable as a result of the disaster or emergency.

This also allows CMS to temporarily extending the 10 business day deadline to provide notification of any subcontracting arrangements. During the temporary extension period, affected contract suppliers will have 30 business days to provide notice to the Competitive Bidding Implementation Contractor of any subcontracting arrangements. CMS will notify DMEPOS Competitive Bidding contract suppliers via e-mail when this temporary extension expires. All other competitive bidding program requirements remain in force.

Note: CMS will provide notice of any changes to reporting timeframes for future events. Also see attached fact sheet for posting.

- **Replacement Prescription Fills**

Medicare payment may be permitted for replacement prescription fills (for a quantity up to the amount originally dispensed) of covered Part B drugs in circumstances where dispensed medication has been lost or otherwise rendered unusable by damage due to the disaster or emergency.

- **Care for Excluded Inpatient Psychiatric Unit Patients in the Acute Care Unit of a Hospital**

Allows IPPS and other acute care hospitals with excluded distinct part inpatient psychiatric units that, as a result of a disaster or emergency, need to relocate inpatients from the excluded distinct part psychiatric unit to an acute care bed and unit. The hospital should continue to bill for inpatient psychiatric services under the inpatient psychiatric facility prospective payment system for such patients and annotate the medical record to indicate the patient is a psychiatric inpatient being cared for in an acute care bed because of capacity or other exigent circumstances related to the hurricane. This waiver may be utilized where the hospital's acute care beds are appropriate for psychiatric patients and the staff and environment are conducive to safe care. For psychiatric patients, this includes assessment of the acute care bed and unit location to ensure those patients at risk of harm to self and others are safely cared for.

- **Care for Excluded Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit Patients in the Acute Care Unit of a Hospital**

Allows IPPS and other acute care hospitals with excluded distinct part inpatient Rehabilitation units that, as a result of a disaster or emergency, need to relocate inpatients from the excluded distinct part rehabilitation unit to an acute care bed and unit. The hospital should continue to bill for inpatient rehabilitation services under the inpatient rehabilitation facility prospective payment system for such patients and annotate the medical record to indicate the patient is a rehabilitation inpatient being cared for in an acute care bed because of capacity or other exigent circumstances related to the disaster or emergency. This waiver may be utilized where the hospital's acute care beds are appropriate for providing care to rehabilitation patients and such patients continue to receive intensive rehabilitation services.

- **Ensuring Correct Processing of Home Health Disaster Related Claims**

Allows MACs to extend the auto-cancellation date of Requests for Anticipated Payment (RAPs) during emergencies.

These temporary emergency waivers apply to the timeframes specified in the Secretary's declaration of the PHE.