



A newsletter to inform NMHA members of the RAC activities in New Mexico.

The RAC Program Mission...

- To detect and correct past improper payments
- To implement actions that will prevent future improper payments

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RAC

TBD

HPMP to Be Removed from the QIO Program

Effective July 31, 2008, the Hospital Payment Monitoring Program (HPMP) will officially be removed from the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) program. HPMP responsibilities are being transferred to other entities under the Office of Financial Management (OFM) and the Comprehensive Error Rate Testing (CERT) program, **mainly to recovery audit contractors (RACs)** and the Medicare administrative contractors (MACs).

What this Means to Providers

- **Requests for charts/records**—The Clinical Data Abstraction Center (CDAC) will no longer be requesting a monthly sample of charts (62 records/state/month). The last request for records to support the HPMP program will occur in April 2008. Providers will continue to receive requests for charts from the CDAC, but this request will be for quality data reporting purposes. Providers will still receive requests for records from the New Mexico Medical Review Association (NMMRA) for other types of reviews as well, such as hospital requests for higher-weighted diagnosis-related groups (DRGs), hospital discharge appeals and beneficiary complaints.
- **Review letters**—The number of review letters from NMMRA should decrease. The majority of letters after August will be related to quality issues, but providers may still see some utilization, DRG, technical denial and billing error letters, as the QIO will continue to perform limited reviews for utilization and coding.
- **HPMP Web pages**—HPMP information on the NMMRA Web site will be available until Dec. 31, 2008, but at that time all information will be removed.
- **Payment error support activities**—After August 1, 2008, NMMRA will no longer have the resources needed to process questions related to payment error issues. Callers will be referred to the RACs and the MACs as appropriate.
- **PEPPERs (Program for Evaluating Payment Patterns Electronic Reports)**—QIOs have been told that they will be provided with the information required to generate PEPPERs through January 2009 (and there is a slight possibility that they may continue beyond that time). NMMRA will continue to distribute the reports as long as the information to generate them is available.
- **H-SAPERs (Hospital-specific Actual Payment Error Reports)**—Data to generate these reports should be available through January 2009. NMMRA will continue to provide the reports until data are no longer available. H-SAPERs will no longer be produced after that time as these reports are based on the review outcomes from the HPMP sample, and NMMRA will no longer be performing these reviews.
- **On Target newsletters**—The July issue will be the final issue.