Overview

Medicare Outpatient Observation Notice

The MOON

- What
- Why
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What is the MOON?

• New Notice informing ...
  ➢ FFS beneficiaries
  ➢ Managed care enrollees

... that they are outpatients, rather than inpatients, in a hospital or CAH
Why do we have the MOON?

• To reduce confusion:
  ➢ Outpatient distinction often unclear

• Outpatient cost implications

• State laws: outpatient notice
Why do we have the MOON?

• Unanimous passage
  ➢ Enacted August 6, 2015
About the MOON

- Written notice
- Verbal explanation
- For beneficiaries receiving outpatient observation services –
  - More than 24 hours
  - No later than 36 hours
About the MOON

Must include:

- Reason for outpatient vs. inpatient
- Financial implications
  - Part B outpatient cost-sharing
  - Self-administered drugs
Makes clear:

• Outpatient observation days will not count toward 3-day minimum inpatient stay required for Medicare-covered skilled nursing care
About the MOON

Must be:
- Signed

And written in:
- Standardized format
- Plain language
About the MOON

• Compatible with existing state laws
  ➢ Deliver before 24 hours
  ➢ Attach additional page
  ➢ Attach state-required notice
About the MOON

- Hospitals are required to deliver no later than:
  March 8, 2017
- Released guidance with more specifics about MOON delivery.
Learn More

CMS.HHS.GOV/BNI

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