

DOTPA Newsletter Blurb

“Developing Outpatient Therapy Payment Alternatives” (DOTPA)/CMS Project- Actively Recruiting Participants August 2010.

CMS will be hosting an Open Door Forum August 19 at 2 pm to talk about a research project titled “Developing Outpatient Therapy Payment Alternatives” (DOTPA). This project will be inviting therapists who bill Medicare Part B to participate in a national study to test items that can measure the types of patients treated by this community and which can be used to help CMS have better information on patient need and the effectiveness of outpatient therapy services. The ultimate goal is to develop payment method alternatives to the current financial cap on outpatient therapy services.

The DOTPA project is actively recruiting approximately 190 Medicare Part B therapy providers nationwide beginning in August 2010. Providers of interest include: hospital outpatient departments, including day rehabilitation programs; outpatient rehabilitation facilities and agencies (CORFs/ORFs); private practices (PT, OT, and SLP); and nursing facilities. Participants will collect data on 120 patients across a period of up to 6 months per provider.

During the project, clinicians will collect a small set of items on enrolled Part B patients at admission and discharge of care. Patients will also be asked to complete a small number of self-report items if they are being treated in the community (all sites except nursing facilities and day rehabilitation programs) The self-report items are from the Activity Measure for Post-Acute Care (AM-PAC) item pool. This is an opportunity to give needed information on **your** patient case mix and outcomes to CMS using a standardized set of assessment items. It is also an opportunity to give direct feedback on items that may be used in future payment policy approaches

For more information please visit the DOTPA project website at <http://optherapy.rti.org> or simply e-mail optherapy-comments@rti.org

We look forward to hearing from and working with you during this exciting project!

Edward Drozd, Project Director (edrozd@rti.org)

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List-Serve E-mail Blurb

Outpatient therapy services (therapy services covered by Medicare Part B) have accounted for a small but growing share of the Medicare expenditures. Attempts to address the increased expenditures through payment policy changes led to the realization that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) cannot adequately assess the appropriateness of utilization patterns or the impact of changes in payment policy without access to better information on patient need and the effectiveness of outpatient therapy services. In 2008, CMS established a research project titled “Developing Outpatient Therapy Payment Alternatives” (DOTPA). The ultimate goal is to develop payment method alternatives to the current financial cap on outpatient therapy services.

The DOTPA project is actively recruiting approximately 190 Medicare Part B therapy providers nationwide. Data collection will take place for a period of up to 6 months for each provider with up to 120 Medicare Part B patients enrolled. During the study, an assessment will be completed for Part B patients on admission and discharge of care. The community-based tool consists of a patient-report section and clinician-report section, while the institutional (nursing facilities and day rehabilitation programs) tool utilizes only clinician-report. For more information please visit the DOTPA website at <http://optherapy.rti.org> or contact Edward Drozd (edrozd@rti.org) or Judith Abbate (jabbate@rti.org). We look forward to hearing from and working with you during this exciting project!