

[DO NOT Revalidate with Medicare Until Notified to Do So](#)

All physicians and suppliers who enrolled in the Medicare program prior to Friday, March 25, 2011, will be required to submit their enrollment information so they can be revalidated under new risk screening criteria required by the Affordable Care Act. However, **DO NOT submit your revalidation until you are notified to do so by Highmark Medicare Services.** You will receive a notice to revalidate between now and March 2013. This will allow Highmark to process revalidations in a timely fashion and allow physicians to take advantage of innovative technologies and streamlined enrollment processes now under development. Updates in the program will be shared as these efforts progress.

[eRx Final Rule Updates](#)

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has released its final rule on the Medicare Electronic Prescribing (eRx) Incentive Program. The final rule provides more flexibility for hardship exemptions to avoid the 1 percent Medicare payment penalty in 2012. The deadline for requesting the exemption has been extended to November 1, 2011. Final exemption hardship categories for eligible physicians to avoid the 2012 penalty are:

- The physician's practice is located in a rural area without high speed internet access.
- The physician's practice is located in an area without sufficient available pharmacies for e-prescribing.
- The physician is registered to participate in the Medicare or Medicaid EHR Incentive Program and has adopted Certified EHR Technology by October 1, 2011, and prior to the time the physician requests an exemption.
- Inability to electronically prescribe due to local, state, or federal law or regulations (Physicians who mainly prescribe narcotics but – due to certain legal limitations – cannot submit these prescriptions electronically can apply for this exemption category).
- Limited prescribing activity (physicians who do not prescribe on a regular basis may apply for this exemption).
- Insufficient opportunities to report the e-prescribing measure due to limitations of the measure's denominator

All exemptions requests must be submitted through a special CMS webpage which is not yet available. The Medical Society of Delaware will provide that link as soon as it is available.

SEPTEMBER 14 WEBINAR TO EXPLAIN UPDATES –The American Medical Association is presenting a free webinar on the final rule on the 2012 Medicare e-Prescribing Incentive Program at 1 p.m. Wednesday, September 14. Register for this complimentary one-hour webinar at <https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/schedule/display.do?udc=jsxqw91kp1bq>. (Please see www.MedicalSocietyofDelaware.org for a direct link to the webinar registration and a Quick Reference Guide to the Rule).

[New Notice of Noncoverage Form Required by November 1](#)

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is encouraging physicians to use a new Advanced Beneficiary Notice of Noncoverage (ABN) form now. **The new forms must be used beginning November 1,**

2011. The new form is available at www.cms.gov/BNI/02_ABN.asp.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 5 – Delaware Cancer Education Alliance's *Walking the Talk: Steps Toward Lowering Cancer Risks*, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.,

Delaware State University, Dover. Register at jchiquoine@cancer.org or call 484-840-9183.

October 11 – ProAssurance's *Physicians Risk Management Seminar*, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., Chase Center on the Riverfront, Wilmington.

Attendance may qualify physicians for a 5 percent discount off malpractice premiums. Register at 800-613-3615.

October 12 – ProAssurance's Practice Manager Risk Management Seminar, 9 to 11:30 a.m., Chase Center on the Riverfront,

Wilmington. Attendance may qualify the practice for a 2 percent discount per physician. Register at 800-613-3615.

SOURCE: MSD,

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