

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

In other news

If you're one of the physicians who has decided to opt out of the Medicare program, you probably know that you're expected to file an affidavit with Medicare, noting that you agree to opt out of the program for two years for all Medicare patients. However, if you've been searching the CMS website or online portals to find the official corresponding affidavit to complete, you've probably come up short.

That's because CMS "does not have a standard affidavit form," CMS notes in MLN Matters article SE1311, which the agency issued last week to clear up opt-out issues. "Medicare contractors must instruct those providers who wish to opt out to provide the information mentioned in writing to the Medicare contractor within their service jurisdiction."

The affidavit must include the following, the MLN Matters article notes:

- Must be in writing and signed by the practitioner
- Must include statements in which the practitioner agrees not to submit claims to Medicare for any services furnished during the opt-out period, except for emergency or urgent care services furnished to beneficiaries with whom the practitioner has not previously entered into a private contract
- Must identify the practitioner so Medicare can ensure that no payment is made to that practitioner during the opt out period
- Must be filed with all Medicare contractors who have jurisdiction over the claims the practitioner would otherwise have filed with Medicare, and must be filed within 10 days after entering into the first private contract to which the affidavit applies.

For more about what you must include in your affidavit, visit

www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/SE1311.pdf to read the complete article.