

Eli's Rehab Report

Industry Notes: Manual Changes, Education Call Shed Light On Change In Improvement Standard

If you're trying to get a handle on what the Jimmo settlement agreement means you've got some more tools to help you figure it out.

Reminder: Last January, the **U.S. District Court for the District of Vermont** gave a final approval on a settlement with the **Department of Health and Human Services** (HHS) in the class-action lawsuit Jimmo v. Sebelius. Under the settlement, HHS agreed to clarify that Medicare covers home health, therapy services and SNFs regardless of whether the beneficiary's condition is expected to improve — known as the "improvement standard."

CMS finally has issued Medicare manual updates incorporating the Jimmo clarifications. And CMS held an MLN Connects National Provider Call on the topic right before Christmas. An explanation of the manual updates is in a MLN Matters article at www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/MM8458.pdf and the call transcript is at www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Outreach/NPC/Downloads.