

Eli's Rehab Report

IRFS: Let Your Thoughts be Known!

Lots of changes are slated for inpatient rehab facilities for FY 2010, and you have more than one place to offer comments: The Federal Register for the payment updates and the Medicare Benefits Policy Manual for other changes.

CMS will accept comments on the proposed rule until June 29 and will address all comments in a final rule to be issued by August 1, 2009. You can view the proposed rule under Special Filings at www.federalregister.gov/inspection.aspx.

If you have comments on the draft Medicare Benefits Policy Manual revisions, submit them through the link that is supplied on the CMS Web site, www.cms.hhs.gov/InpatientRehabFacPPS/02_Spotlight.asp, rather than through the www.regulations.gov site, which is used for comments on proposed regulatory language. CMS intends to issue the final Medicare Benefits Policy Manual with the final IRF PPS rule.

The final rule will be effective for discharges occurring on or after October 1, 2009.