

Eli's Rehab Report

Regulations: Monitor Postacute Reform With These Key Dates

Time is running out to sign on

CMS has big plans for skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, inpatient rehab facilities, and long-term care hospitals that could affect how your rehab services in these settings are reimbursed. Use the following timeline to stay current with the agency's plans to standardize post-acute assessments.

Key dates for CMS' Post Acute Care Payment Reform Demonstration (PAC-PRD):

- Immediately. CMS is in the process of selecting demonstration participants. CMS will select the first of 10 market areas participating in the PAC payment reform demonstration. If you think the demonstration may be a good fit for you, send a request to participate to pat-comments@rti.org.
- January 2008. Data collection in the first 10 markets is set to begin this month and will continue for three years.
- March 2008. CMS will expand the demonstration to nine other markets. Participants will collect data using the Continuity Assessment Record and Evaluation (CARE) tool, submitting the data directly to CMS through Web-based data submission systems.
- Late 2011. CMS will report to Congress regarding the demonstration's findings. Benefit: The data submission systems used with the CARE tool are designed to be interoperable so data can be downloaded from provider systems, CMS says: "This will reduce data entry time and improve reliability for items already stored in a provider system, such as beneficiary insurance information, and other items that are important for improving continuity of care, such as known allergies or prescription medications at discharge."

Note: For more information on the PAC-PRD and the CARE tool, read the related article in Physical Medicine & Rehab Coding Alert Vol. 8, No. 11. If you're interested in participating in the demonstration, contact RTI's **Barbara Gage** at (781) 434-1717 or bgage@rti.org.