

Eli's Hospice Insider

Hospice News: Watch Out For Closed Medicare Bank Accounts

If you get a Medicare check returned with an "account closed" message, don't panic. CMS has converted its banking contracts with **JP Morgan** and **U.S. Bank** to Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) contracts, and thus has instructed the banks to close all bank accounts and letters of credit associated with the old configuration and contracts, Medicare contractor **National Government Services** says in an e-mail message to providers.

"Normally, Medicare checks are valid for a 12-month period after the payment date on the check and then they are automatically stale-dated, at which point they become void," NGS notes. But because the accounts were closed for the contract transition, providers may see checks returned.

Do this: Affected providers must contact the Provider Contact Center and have the checks reissued under a new account. Returned check fees will also be "addressed," NGS says.