

CMS PAC demonstration sites announced

The CMS demonstration pertaining to hospital discharge and post-acute admission and discharge assessments has announced the 10 market places it plans to target through the project (expected to begin in March 2008). In January 2008, CMS's contractor for the demonstration, Research Triangle Institute International (RTI), will begin recruiting volunteer providers in each area.

Through this three-year demonstration, RTI is evaluating hospital discharge patterns and comparing the treatments, outcomes and cost effectiveness of care provided in home health, skilled nursing, inpatient rehabilitation, and long-term care hospital settings. The demonstration expects to yield a common patient-assessment instrument to eventually be used in place of the current inconsistent instruments used in these post-acute sites. CMS plans to also require general acute hospitals to use the new assessment instrument for all Medicare beneficiaries being discharged.

RTI will begin recruiting providers in January, with training and data collection beginning in March in Boston. CMS plans to begin data collection in the other nine geographic areas highlighted in the chart below between late May and early September.

For more information on the demonstration, go to www.aha.org/postacute or www.cms.hhs.gov/DemoProjectsEvalRpts/MD/itemdetail.asp?itemID=CMS1201325 .

Primary Market	Alternative Market, if necessary
Boston, Massachusetts	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Chicago, Illinois	None identified
Dallas, Texas	Atlanta, Georgia
Lakeland/Tampa, Florida	Wilmington, North Carolina
Lincoln, Nebraska	Colorado Springs/Pueblo, Colorado
Louisville, Kentucky	Canton/Akron, Ohio
Rapid City, South Dakota	Marquette, Michigan
Rochester, New York	Portland, Maine
San Francisco/Bay Area, California	Salt Lake City, Utah
Seattle/Tacoma, Washington	Portland, Oregon