



**Friday, November 30,  
2012**

**NEED ACTION FROM...** *Hospital leaders, including key clinical staff*

**ACTION...** *Consider submitting presentation for testifying at upcoming CMS advisory meeting*

**WHEN...** *Submissions due Jan. 25 (e-copy) and Feb. 1 (hard copy); meeting is March 11-12*

**WHY...** *CMS advisory panel to consider level of supervision for individual outpatient therapeutic services*

## **HOSPITALS NEED TO WEIGH-IN ON SUPERVISION POLICY FOR OUTPATIENT THERAPEUTIC SERVICES**

***May be one of the last opportunities for change before 2014 enforcement of CMS's requirements***

In March 2013, the Advisory Panel on Hospital Outpatient Payment ([HOP Panel](#)), which reviews and advises the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding the appropriate level of supervision for individual hospital outpatient therapeutic services, will hear testimony from hospitals and health systems. The HOP Panel meets only in March and August. This may be one of the last opportunities to have outpatient therapeutic services designated as general supervision before CMS begins enforcing the agency's direct supervision requirements across the board in 2014.

**The AHA strongly encourages hospitals with an interest in this issue to have their chief medical officers, chief nursing officers or other members of their clinical staff identify outpatient therapeutic services that require only general supervision and request an opportunity to provide testimony during the next [HOP Panel meeting](#) in Baltimore.**

### **WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP:**

- ***Submit a presentation to CMS proposing general supervision for specific therapeutic services and make a request to testify during the March 11-12 HOP Panel meeting.***
- ***Refer to the notice in Nov. 26 [Federal Register](#) for detailed instructions on CMS's requirements. The deadline for [submitting an](#)***

**[email copy of a presentation](#) is Jan. 25, and the deadline for submitting a hard copy of a presentation is Feb. 1. You must submit both.**

- **CMS will review all requests and select who will testify at the HOP Panel meeting.**
- **Individuals interested in attending the March meeting must [register online](#) between Jan. 9 and Feb. 22.**
- **Review the attached [AHA Factsheet](#) for more information.**
- **Questions? Contact Roslyne Schulman, director of policy, at [rschulman@aha.org](mailto:rschulman@aha.org).**

The number and variety of services that the HOP Panel considers will directly depend on how many hospitals request to testify before the HOP Panel and the services they present for evaluation. Based on recommendations made by five hospitals who presented at the HOP Panel's February and August meetings, CMS has reduced the level of supervision for 49 outpatient therapeutic services from "direct" to "general" supervision.

Several examples of hospital presentations that CMS has accepted for previous HOP Panel meetings are available at <http://www.aha.org/content/12/11-12-mh-hop.pdf>.

While the AHA continues to strongly pursue further enforcement delay and legislative solutions, CMS warned in the 2013 final outpatient prospective payment system regulation that the enforcement delay for critical access hospitals and small and rural hospitals was extended only through 2013 in order to provide these hospitals with an additional opportunity to use the HOP Panel process and allow them additional time to meet the required supervision standard.



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