

## EMAIL ALERT

### ADVISORY PANEL ON AMBULATORY PAYMENT CLASSIFICATION GROUPS MEETING IN AUGUST

The Advisory Panel (Panel) on Ambulatory Payment Classification (APC) Groups will hold its second semi-annual meeting in August. The Panel's purpose is to review the APC groups and their associated weights and to advise the Department of Health and Human Services regarding the clinical integrity of the APC groups and their associated weights.

Meeting dates:

- Wednesday, August 10, 2011, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (EST)
- Thursday, August 11, 2011, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (EST)
- Friday, August 12, 2011, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (EST)

The agenda for the August 2011 meeting includes the following topics:

- Addressing whether procedures within an APC group are similar, both clinically and in terms of resource use.
- Evaluating APC group weights.
- Reviewing packaging the cost of items and services, including drugs and devices, into procedures and services. This will include a review of the methodology for packaging and the impact of packaging the cost of those items and services on APC group structure and payment.
- Removing procedures from the inpatient list for payment under the Outpatient Prospective Payment System.
- Using claims and cost report data for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' determination of APC group weights.
- Addressing other technical issues concerning APC group structure.

The Panel's recommendations are generally finalized after review and approval by the Panel at the last meeting, prior to final adjournment.



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