

## EMAIL ALERT

### Proposed 2012 ASC Payment Rates and Quality Measures

On July 18, 2011, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (“CMS”) published its proposed [rule](#) for 2012 payment rates and policies for ASCs and Hospital Outpatient Departments (“HOPDs”). Under the proposed rule, CMS projects that ASCs would receive a 0.9% update to their payment rates, compared to a projected payment update of 1.5% for HOPDs. CMS bases ASC payment updates on the Consumer Price Index for Urban Consumers, while it bases HOPD payment updates on the hospital market basket measure.

CMS also proposes implementation of a quality reporting program for ASCs. Beginning on January 1, 2012, ASCs would be required to report on 8 quality measures that could affect their 2014 payment determinations, including measures related to outcomes and surgical infection control. Additional quality measures regarding use of safe surgical checklists, ASC facility volume data on certain ASC surgical procedures, and influenza vaccination coverage among healthcare personnel would be added in future years.

CMS is accepting comments regarding the proposed rule until August 30, 2011, and expects to release a final rule by November 1, 2011.



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