

DEADLINES HAVE BEEN EXTENDED FOR THE AUGUST 2006 APC PANEL MEETING

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has extended the deadlines for submitting agenda topics, electronic & hardcopy comments and presentations, registration for the August meeting, and special accommodation requests as shown below:

Deadline for Suggested Agenda Topics –

5 p.m. (e.d.t.), Wednesday, August 16, 2006

Deadline for Electronic & *Hardcopy Comments and Presentations –

5 p.m. (e.d.t.), Wednesday, August 16, 2006

Deadline for Attendance Registration –

5 p.m. (e.d.t.), Friday, August 18, 2006

Deadline for Special Accommodations –

5 p.m. (e.d.t.), Friday, August 18, 2006

For consideration before the Panel, agenda items, comments, and presentations shall be limited to the following issues:

- Addressing whether procedures within an Ambulatory Payment Classification Group (APC) are similar both clinically and in terms of resource use
- Reconfiguring APCs (for example, splitting of APCs, moving Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes from one APC to another, and moving HCPCS codes from new technology APCs to clinical APCs)
- Evaluating APC weights
- Reviewing the packaging of device, drug, and procedure costs, including the methodology for packaging and the impact of packaging on APC groupings
- Removing procedures from the inpatient list for payment under the OPPS
- Using single and multiple procedure claims data
- Addressing other technical issues concerning structure of the APC groups

Unrelated topics are not subjects for discussion. Unrelated topics include, but are not limited to, the conversion factor, charge compression, pass-through payments for medical devices and drugs, correct code usage, and wage adjustments.

Due to the tight timeframe within which we are working because of the deadline extensions, please make certain that your topics are within the scope of the Panel's work. Since there will be no time for rewrites before the meeting booklets are developed, we would appreciate your cooperation in making the presentations and comments consistent with the above guidelines. For further information, please call the CMS Advisory Committees' Information Line at 1-877-449-5659 (toll free) and (410) 786-9379 (local).

***NOTE:**

When delivering hardcopy presentations or comments, call the Designated Federal Official at (410) 786-4474, and someone will meet the courier at the front desk. If there is no answer at the previous number, please call (410) 786-4532.

- E-mail address for comments, presentations, and accommodation/registration requests is [CMS APCPanel@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:CMSAPCPanel@cms.hhs.gov).
- News media representatives must contact our External Affairs Office at (202) 690-6145.