

§ 405.377

42 CFR Ch. IV (10-1-00 Edition)

(3) The litigative probabilities involved; and

(4) The administrative and litigative costs of collection where the cost of collecting the claim is a basis for compromise.

(i) *Payment of compromise*—(1) *Time and manner.* Payment of the amount that HCFA has agreed to accept as a compromise in full settlement of a Medicare overpayment claim must be made within the time and in the manner prescribed by HCFA. An overpayment claim is not compromised or settled until the full payment of the compromised amount has been made within the time and in the manner prescribed by HCFA.

(2) *Failure to pay compromised amount.* Failure of the debtor or the estate to make payment as provided by the compromise reinstates the full amount of the overpayment claim, less any amounts paid prior to the default.

(j) *Effect of compromise, or suspension, or termination of collection action.* Any action taken by HCFA under this section regarding the compromise of an overpayment claim, or termination or suspension of collection action on an overpayment claim, is not an initial determination for purposes of the appeal procedures under subparts G, H, and R of this part.

[43 FR 59381, Dec. 20, 1978, as amended at 57 56998, Dec. 2, 1992. Redesignated and amended at 61 FR 63745, 63747, Dec. 2, 1996]

**§ 405.377 Withholding Medicare payments to recover Medicaid overpayments.**

(a) *Basis and purpose.* This section implements section 1885 of the Act, which provides for withholding Medicare payments to certain Medicaid providers that have not arranged to repay Medicaid overpayments as determined by the Medicaid State agency or have failed to provide information necessary to determine the amount (if any) of overpayments.

(b) *When withholding may be used.* HCFA may withhold Medicare payment to offset Medicaid overpayments that a Medicaid agency has been unable to collect if—

(1) The Medicaid agency has followed the procedure specified in § 447.31 of this chapter; and

(2) The institution or person is one described in paragraph (c) of this section and either—

(i) Has not made arrangements satisfactory to the Medicaid agency to repay the overpayment; or

(ii) Has not provided information to the Medicaid agency necessary to enable the agency to determine the existence or amount of Medicaid overpayment.

(c) *Institutions or persons affected.* Withholding under paragraph (b) of this section may be made with respect to any of the following entities that has or had in effect an agreement with a Medicaid agency to furnish services under an approved Medicaid State plan:

(1) An institutional provider that has in effect an agreement under section 1866 of the Act. (Part 489 (Provider and Supplier Agreements) implements section 1866 of the Act.)

(2) A physician or supplier that has accepted payment on the basis of an assignment under section 1842(b)(3)(B)(ii) of the Act. (Section 424.55 sets forth the conditions a supplier agrees to in accepting assignment.)

(d) *Amount to be withheld.* (1) HCFA contacts the appropriate intermediary or carrier to determine the amount of Medicare payment to which the institution or person is entitled.

(2) HCFA may require the intermediary or carrier to withhold Medicare payments to the institution or person by the lesser of the following amounts:

(i) The amount of the Medicare payments to which the institution or person would otherwise be entitled.

(ii) The total Medicaid overpayment to the institution or person.

(e) *Notice of withholding.* If HCFA intends to withhold payments under this section, it notifies by certified mail, return receipt requested, the institution or person and the appropriate intermediary or carrier of the intention to withhold Medicare payments and follows the procedure in § 405.374. The notice includes—

(1) Identification of the institution or person; and

(2) The amount of Medicaid overpayment to be withheld from payments to which the institution or person would otherwise be entitled under Medicare.

(f) *Termination of withholding.* HCFA terminates the withholding if—

(1) The Medicaid overpayment is completely recovered;

(2) The institution or person enters into an agreement satisfactory to the Medicaid agency to repay the overpayment; or

(3) The Medicaid agency determines that there is no overpayment based on newly acquired evidence or a subsequent audit.

(g) *Disposition of funds withheld.* HCFA releases amounts withheld under this section to the Medicaid agency to be applied against the Medicaid overpayment made by the State agency.

[61 FR 63747, Dec. 2, 1996]

**§ 405.378 Interest charges on overpayment and underpayments to providers, suppliers, and other entities.**

(a) *Basis and purpose.* This section, which implements sections 1815(d) and 1833(j) of the common law and Act, and authority granted under the Federal Claims Collection Act, provides for the charging and payment of interest on overpayments and underpayments to Medicare providers, suppliers, HMOs, competitive medical plans (CMPs), and health care prepayment plans (HCPPs).

(b) *Basic rules.* (1) HCFA will charge interest on overpayments, and pay interest on underpayments, to providers and suppliers of services (including physicians and other practitioners), except as specified in paragraphs (f) and (h) of this section.

(2) Interest will accrue from the date of the final determination as defined in paragraph (c) of this section, and will either be charged on the overpayment balance or paid on the underpayment balance for each 30-day period that payment is delayed. (Periods of less than 30 days will be treated as a full 30-day period, and the 30-day interest charge will be applied to any balance.)

(c) *Definition of final determination.* (1) For purposes of this section, any of the following constitutes a final determination:

(i) A Notice of Amount of Program Reimbursement (NPR) is issued, as discussed in §§ 405.1803, 417.576, and 417.810, and either—

(A) A written demand for payment is made; or

(B) A written determination of an underpayment is made by the intermediary after a cost report is filed.

(ii) In cases in which an NPR is not used as a notice of determination (that is, primarily under part B), one of the following determinations is issued—

(A) A written determination that an overpayment exists and a written demand for payment;

(B) A written determination of an underpayment; or

(C) An Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) decision that reduces the amount of an overpayment below the amount that HCFA has already collected.

(iii) Other examples of cases in which an NPR is not used are carrier reasonable charge determinations under subpart E of this part, interim cost settlements made for HMOs, CMPs, and HCPPs under §§ 417.574 and 417.810(e) of this chapter, and initial retroactive adjustment determinations under § 413.64(f)(2) of this chapter. In the case of interim cost settlements and initial retroactive adjustment determinations, if the debtor does not dispute the adjustment determination within the timeframe designated in the notice of the determination (generally at least 15 days), a final determination is deemed to have been made. If the provider or supplier does dispute portions of the determination, a final determination is deemed to have been made on those portions when the intermediary issues a new determination in response to the dispute.

(iv) The due date of a timely-filed cost report that indicates an amount is due HCFA, and is not accompanied by payment in full. (If an additional overpayment or underpayment is determined by the carrier or intermediary, a final determination on the additional amount is made in accordance with paragraphs (c)(1)(i), (c)(1)(ii), or (c)(1)(iii), of this section.)

(v) With respect to a cost report that is not filed on time, the day following the date the cost report was due (plus a single extension of time not to exceed 30 days if granted for good cause), until the time as a cost report is filed. (When the cost report is subsequently filed, there is an additional determination as