

§ 447.25 Direct payments to certain recipients for physicians' or dentists' services.

(a) *Basis and purpose.* This section implements section 1905(a) of the Act by prescribing requirements applicable to States making direct payments to certain recipients for physicians' or dentists' services.

(b) *State plan requirements.* Except for groups specified in paragraph (c) of this section, a State may make direct payments to recipients for physicians' or dentists' services. If it does so, the State plan must—

- (1) Provide for direct payments; and
- (2) Specify the conditions under which payments are made.

(c) *Federal financial participation.* No FFP is available in expenditures for direct payment for physicians' or dentists' services to any recipient—

- (1) Who is receiving assistance under the State's approved plan under title I, IV-A, X, XIV or XVI (AABD) of the Act; or
- (2) To whom supplemental security benefits are being paid under title XVI of the Act; or
- (3) Who is receiving or eligible for a State supplementary payment or would be eligible if he were not in a medical institution, and who is eligible for Medicaid as a categorically needy recipient.

(d) *Federal requirements.* (1) Direct payments to recipients under this section are an alternative to payments directly to providers and are subject to the same conditions; for example, the State's reasonable charge schedules are applicable.

(2) Direct payments must be supported by providers' bills for services.

§ 447.30 Withholding the Federal share of payments to Medicaid providers to recover Medicare overpayments.

(a) *Basis and purpose.* This section implements section 1914 of the Act, which provides for withholding the Federal share of Medicaid payments to a provider if the provider has not arranged to repay Medicare overpayments or has failed to provide information to determine the amount of the overpayments. The intent of the statute and regulations is to facilitate the recovery of Medicare overpayments.

The provision enables recovery of overpayments when institutions have reduced participation in Medicare or when physicians and suppliers have submitted few or no claims under Medicare, thus not receiving enough in Medicare reimbursement to permit offset of the overpayment.

(b) *When withholding occurs.* The Federal share of Medicaid payments may be withheld from any provider specified in paragraph (c) of this section to recover Medicare overpayments that HCFA has been unable to collect if the provider participates in Medicaid and—

- (1) The provider has not made arrangements satisfactory to HCFA to repay the Medicare overpayment; or
- (2) HCFA has been unable to collect information from the provider to determine the existence or amount of Medicare overpayment.

(c) The Federal share of Medicaid payments may be withheld with respect to the following providers:

- (1) An institutional provider that has or previously had in effect a Medicare provider agreement under section 1866 of the Act; and
- (2) A Medicaid provider who has previously accepted Medicare payment on the basis of an assignment under section 1842(b)(3)(B)(ii) of the Act; and during the 12 month period preceding the quarter in which the Federal share is to be withheld for a Medicare overpayment, submitted no claims under Medicare or submitted claims which total less than the amount of overpayment.

(d) *Order to reduce State payment.*

(1) HCFA may, at its discretion, issue an order to the Medicaid agency of any State that is using the provider's services, to reduce its payment to the provider by the amount specified in paragraph (f) of this section.

(2) The order to reduce payment to the provider will remain in effect until—

- (i) The Medicaid agency determines that the overpayment has been completely recovered; or
- (ii) HCFA terminates the order.

(3) HCFA may withhold FFP from any State that does not comply with the order specified in paragraph (d)(1) of this section to reduce payment to

the provider and claims FFP for the expenditure on its quarterly expenditure report.

(e) *Notice of withholding.* (1) Before the Federal share of payments may be withheld under this section, HCFA will notify the provider and the Medicaid agency of each State that HCFA believes may use the overpaid provider's services under Medicaid.

(2) The notice will include the instruction to reduce State payments, as provided under paragraph (d) of this section.

(3) HCFA will send the notice referred to in paragraph (e)(1) by certified mail, return receipt requested.

(4) Each Medicaid agency must identify the amount of payment due the provider under Medicaid and give that information to HCFA in the next quarterly expenditure report.

(5) The Medicaid agency may appeal any disallowance of FFP resulting from the withholding decision to the Grant Appeals Board, in accordance with 45 CFR part 16.

(f) Amount to be withheld. HCFA may require the Medicaid agency to reduce the Federal share of its payment to the provider by the lesser of the following amounts.

(1) The Federal matching share of payments to the provider, or

(2) The total Medicare overpayment to the provider.

(g) *Effective date of withholding.* Withholding of payment will become effective no less than 60 days after the day on which the agency receives notice of withholding.

(h) *Duration of withholding.* No Federal funds are available in expenditures for services that are furnished by a provider specified in paragraph (c) of this section from the date on which the withholding becomes effective until the termination of withholding under paragraph (i) of this section.

(i) *Termination of withholding.*

(1) HCFA will terminate the order to reduce State payment if it determines that any of the following has occurred:

(i) The Medicare overpayment is completely recovered;

(ii) The institution or person makes an agreement satisfactory to HCFA to repay the overpayment; or

(iii) HCFA determines that there is no overpayment based on newly acquired evidence or a subsequent audit.

(2) HCFA will notify each State that previously received a notice ordering the withholding that the withholding has been terminated.

(j) *Procedures for restoring excess withholding.* If an amount ultimately determined to be in excess of the Medicare overpayment is withheld, HCFA will restore any excess funds withheld.

(k) *Recovery of funds from Medicaid agency.* A provider is not entitled to recover from the Medicaid agency the amount of payment withheld by the agency in accordance with a HCFA order issued under paragraph (d) of this section.

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§ 447.31 Withholding Medicare payments to recover Medicaid overpayments.

(a) *Basis and purpose.* Section 1885 of the Act provides authority for HCFA to withhold Medicare payments to a Medicaid provider in order to recover Medicaid overpayments to the provider. Section 405.377 of this chapter sets forth the Medicare rules implementing section 1885, and specifies under what circumstances withholding will occur and the providers that are subject to withholding. This section establishes the procedures that the Medicaid agency must follow when requesting that HCFA withhold Medicare payments.

(b) *Agency notice to providers.* (1) Before the agency requests recovery of a Medicaid overpayment through Medicare, the agency must send either or both of the following notices, in addition to that required under paragraph (b)(2) of this section, to the provider.

(i) Notice that—

(A) There has been an overpayment;

(B) Repayment is required; and

(C) The overpayment determination is subject to agency appeal procedures, but we may withhold Medicare payments while an appeal is in progress.

(ii) Notice that—

(A) Information is needed to determine the amount of overpayment if any; and