



Contact CMS As Soon As Possible To Obtain an Exemption from the 2012 E- Prescribing Penalty

The AMA has yet again secured an opportunity for more physicians to be exempted from the 2012 Medicare e-prescribing penalty. Even if you have already contacted CMS, contact CMS again. They are willing to hear your case.

The AMA has continually raised concerns with CMS that the back-dating of the 2012 e-prescribing penalty program along with the multiple other quality and health IT programs underway left little time for a significant number of physicians to take the necessary steps to avoid the 2012 e-prescribing penalty.

Thanks to the AMA's unwavering commitment to improve the regulatory environment for physicians, CMS has agreed to hear your case even one more time.

CMS has completed its review of all hardship exemption requests for the 2012 e-prescribing penalty program received via CMS' Communication Support Page.

If you have not already done so, please contact CMS' Quality Net Help Desk immediately if you have not received a formal notice from CMS regarding the final status of your exemption request or if you believe you are receiving the 2012 e-prescribing penalty in error. The Quality Net Help Desk can be reached via telephone at 1-866-288-8912 or via email at Qnetsupport@sdps.org.

We have heard from many physicians who believe that they received the 2012 Medicare e-prescribing penalty in error. Here are some examples of the hardships that physicians faced:

(1) You did e-prescribe in 2011 but due to errors or system/technical glitches (e.g., your billing vendor/clearinghouse removed the G8553 code from your Medicare Part B claims that you submitted), the G8553 code was removed from your Medicare Part B claims that you submitted to Medicare. You also have documentation that shows that you e-prescribed for your Medicare patients in 2011.

(2) You reported the wrong G-code (e.g., a 2009 e-prescribing G-code) on your Medicare Part B claims in 2011. You also have documentation that shows that you e-prescribed for your Medicare patients in 2011.

(3) You filed for an exemption request but you included your group NPI rather than your individual NPI number on the exemption request form and your exemption request was denied.

(4) You filed for an exemption request, but you have not yet heard from CMS regarding the status of your exemption request, or you believe that your exemption request was denied in error.

If you faced any of the hardships described above or faced another type of hardship please contact CMS to hear or reconsider your case. You must contact CMS' Quality Net Help Desk as soon as possible via telephone at 1-866-288-8912 or via email at Qnetsupport@sdps.org.