



**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO HOSPITALS AND PHYSICIANS
CHANGES IN PROCEDURES FOR
ACUTE INPATIENT HOSPITAL PRE-CERTIFICATION
EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 16, 2009**

Effective November 16, 2009, several changes will be made to the existing hospital Pre-Certification/Length of Stay process. These changes are as follow:

- Review of inpatient extension requests for acute care hospitals will be completed by utilizing nationally recognized criteria. Clinical reviews will utilize current McKesson InterQual guidelines. These guidelines will be updated annually.
- Length of Stay assignments will be made referencing clinical information and current Thomson Reuter data for the Southern Region or Louisiana Medicaid specific data.
- Outpatient surgical procedures performed on an inpatient basis on day one or day two of the inpatient hospital admission will be reviewed for clinical appropriateness referencing the current McKesson Procedures Guidelines and patient specific medical information.
- The PCF01 will continue to be required for initial admissions and may be requested for certain extension requests. The PCF02 and PCF04 have been revised to obtain comprehensive patient specific information pertinent to the extension request. The revised versions are required beginning **November 16, 2009**. If requested by the Pre-Cert Unit, two additional pages of documentation may be submitted with the PCF02 or PCF04.
- These changes apply to the following acute inpatient hospital levels of care: acute general, NICU, PICU, CCU, TU, and Burn unit. This does not include rehabilitation, Long Term Acute Care, Psychiatric (Free Standing and DPP units) or Substance Abuse.

In addition, the following policies and procedures remain in effect:

- Dually eligible recipients continue to be exempt as long as Medicare Part A benefits are in effect.
- Hospitals remain responsible for obtaining inpatient hospital pre-certification.
- Physician inpatient services billed for services on a non pre-certified date of service will continue to deny.
- Physician to physician conferencing may be scheduled with the fiscal intermediary pre-certification department for reconsideration of denied requests.
- Physicians should continue to work closely with hospital utilization review staff to ensure that patient specific clinical information is documented to support and facilitate the pre-certification process.

Webinar presentations are being scheduled for acute care hospitals to review these changes. Monitor this web site and link for registration information that will be posted soon.