

**§ 422.756 Procedures for imposing intermediate sanctions and civil money penalties.**

(a) *Notice of intermediate sanction and opportunity to respond*—(1) *Notice of intent*. Before imposing the intermediate sanction, CMS—

(i) Sends a written notice to the MA organization stating the nature and basis of the proposed intermediate sanction and the MA organization's right to a hearing as specified in paragraph (b) of this section; and

(ii) Sends the OIG a copy of the notice.

(2) *Opportunity to respond*. CMS allows the MA organization 10 calendar days from receipt of the notice to provide a written rebuttal. CMS considers receipt of notice as the day after notice is sent by fax, e-mail, or submitted for overnight mail.

(b) *Hearing*. (1) The MA organization may request a hearing before a CMS hearing officer.

(2) A written request must be received by the designated CMS office within 15 calendar days after the receipt of the notice.

(3) A request for a hearing under § 422.660 does not delay the date specified by CMS when the sanction becomes effective.

(4) The MA organization must follow the right to a hearing procedure as specified at § 422.660 through § 422.684.

(c) *Effective date and duration of sanctions*—(1) *Effective date*. The effective date of the sanction is the date specified by CMS in the notice.

(2) *Exception*. If CMS determines that the MA organization's conduct poses a serious threat to an enrollee's health and safety, CMS may make the sanction effective on an earlier date that CMS specifies.

(3) *Duration of sanction*. The sanction remains in effect until CMS is satisfied that the deficiencies that are the basis for the sanction determination have been corrected and are not likely to recur.

(i) CMS may require that the MA organization hire an independent auditor to provide CMS with additional information to determine if the deficiencies that are the basis for the sanction determination have been corrected and are not likely to recur. The inde-

pendent auditor must work in accordance with CMS specifications and must be willing to attest that a complete and full independent review has been performed.

(ii) In instances where marketing or enrollment or both intermediate sanctions have been imposed, CMS may require an MA organization to market or to accept enrollments or both for a limited period of time in order to assist CMS in making a determination as to whether the deficiencies that are the bases for the intermediate sanctions have been corrected and are not likely to recur.

(A) If, following this time period, CMS determines the deficiencies have not been corrected or are likely to recur, the intermediate sanctions will remain in effect until such time that CMS is assured the deficiencies have been corrected and are not likely to recur.

(B) The MA organization does not have a right to a hearing under § 422.660(a)(4) of this part to challenge CMS' determination to keep the intermediate sanctions in effect.

(d) *Termination by CMS*. In addition to or as an alternative to the sanctions described in paragraph (c) of this section, CMS may decline to authorize the renewal of an organization's contract in accordance with § 422.506(b)(2) and (b)(3), or terminate the contract in accordance with § 422.510.

(e) *Notice to impose civil money penalties*—(1) *CMS notice to OIG*. If CMS determines that an MA organization has failed to comply with a requirement as described in 422.752, CMS notifies the OIG of this determination. OIG may impose a civil money penalty upon an MA organization as specified at 422.752(c)(2).

(2) *CMS notice of civil money penalties to MA organizations*. If CMS makes a determination to impose a CMP as described in 422.752(c)(1), CMS will send a written notice of the Agency's decision to impose a civil money penalty to include—

(i) A description of the basis for the determination.

(ii) The basis for the penalty.

(iii) The amount of the penalty.

(iv) The date the penalty is due.

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(v) The MA organization's right to a hearing under subpart T of this part.

(vi) Information about where to file the request for hearing.

[63 FR 35113, June 26, 1998, as amended at 68 FR 50859, Aug. 22, 2003; 70 FR 4741, Jan. 28, 2005; 72 FR 68725, Dec. 5, 2007; 73 FR 55764, Sept. 26, 2008; 75 FR 19814, Apr. 15, 2010]

**§ 422.758 Collection of civil money penalties imposed by CMS.**

(a) When an MA organization does not request a hearing, CMS initiates collection of the civil money penalty following the expiration of the time-frame for requesting an ALJ hearing as specified in subpart T of this part.

(b) If an MA organization requests a hearing and CMS' decision to impose a civil money penalty is upheld, CMS may initiate collection of the civil money penalty once the administrative decision is final.

[72 FR 68726, Dec. 5, 2007]

**§ 422.760 Determinations regarding the amount of civil money penalties and assessment imposed by CMS.**

(a) *Determining the appropriate amount of any penalty.* In determining the amount of penalty imposed under 422.752(c)(1), CMS will consider as appropriate:

- (1) The nature of the conduct;
- (2) The degree of culpability of the MA organization;
- (3) The harm which resulted or could have resulted from the conduct of MA organization;
- (4) The financial condition of the MA organization;
- (5) The history of prior offenses by the MA organization or principals of the MA organization; and,
- (6) Such other matters as justice may require.

(b) *Amount of penalty.* CMS may impose civil money penalties in the following amounts:

(1) If the deficiency on which the determination is based has directly adversely affected (or has the substantial likelihood of adversely affecting) one or more MA enrollees—up to \$25,000 for each determination.

(2) If the deficiency on which the determination is based has directly adversely affected (or has the substantial likelihood of adversely affecting) one

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or more MA enrollees, CMS may calculate a CMP of up to \$25,000 for each MA enrollee directly adversely affected (or with the substantial likelihood of being adversely affected) by a deficiency.

(3) For each week that a deficiency remains uncorrected after the week in which the MA organization receives CMS' notice of the determination—up to \$10,000.

(4) If CMS makes a determination that a MA organization has terminated its contract other than in a manner described under 422.512 and that the MA organization has therefore failed to substantially carry out the terms of the contract—\$250 per Medicare enrollee from the terminated MA plan or plans at the time the MA organization terminated its contract, or \$100,000, whichever is greater.

[72 FR 68726, Dec. 5, 2007, as amended at 74 FR 1542, Jan. 12, 2009]

**§ 422.762 Settlement of penalties.**

For civil money penalties imposed by CMS, CMS may settle civil money penalty cases at any time before a final decision is rendered.

[72 FR 68726, Dec. 5, 2007]

**§ 422.764 Other applicable provisions.**

The provisions of section 1128A of the Act (except subsections (a) and (b)) apply to civil money penalties under this subpart to the same extent that they apply to a civil money penalty or procedure under section 1128A of the Act.

[63 FR 35115, June 26, 1998. Redesignated at 72 FR 68726, Dec. 5, 2007]

**Subparts P—S [Reserved]**

**Subpart T—Appeal procedures for Civil Money Penalties**

SOURCE: 72 FR 68726, Dec. 5, 2007, unless otherwise noted.

**§ 422.1000 Basis and scope.**

(a) *Statutory basis.* (1) Section 1128A(c)(2) of the Act provides that the Secretary may not collect a civil money penalty until the affected party