

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services**

[CMS-3302-WN]

42 CFR Part 416, 418, 482, 483, and 485**Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Revisions to Certain Patient's Rights Conditions for Participation and Conditions for Coverage; Withdrawal****AGENCY:** Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), HHS.**ACTION:** Withdrawal of proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This document withdraws a proposed rule that was published in the *Federal Register* on December 12, 2014. This proposed rule would revise the applicable conditions of participation for certain providers, conditions for coverage for certain suppliers, and requirements for long-term care facilities, to ensure that the requirements are consistent with the Supreme Court decision in *United States v. Windsor* (570 U.S.12, 133 S. Ct. 2675 (2013)), and HHS policy. Specifically, it proposed to revise certain definitions and patient's rights provisions that currently defer to state law, in order to ensure that same-sex spouses are recognized and afforded equal rights in certain Medicare and Medicaid-participating facilities.

DATES: As of October 4, 2017, the proposed rule published December 12, 2014, at 79 FR 73873, is withdrawn.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ronisha Blackstone, 410-786-6882.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 12, 2014, we published a proposed rule in the *Federal Register* entitled, "Medicare and Medicaid Program; Revisions to Certain Patient's Rights Conditions of Participation and Conditions for Coverage" (79 FR 73873). In *United States v. Windsor*, 570 U.S.12, 133 S. Ct. 2675 (2013), the Supreme Court held that section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) was unconstitutional because it violated the Fifth Amendment (See *Windsor*, 133 S. Ct. 2675, 2695). Section 3 of DOMA provided that in determining the meaning of any Act of the Congress, or of any ruling, regulation, or interpretation of the various administrative bureaus and agencies of the United States, the word "marriage" meant only a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife, and the word "spouse" could refer only to a person of the opposite sex who was a husband or a wife (1 U.S.C. 7).

Following the Supreme Court's opinion in *Windsor*, the Federal government was permitted to recognize the validity of same-sex marriages when administering Federal statutes and programs.

The December 2014 rulemaking proposed to revise certain conditions of participation (CoPs), conditions for coverage (CfCs), and requirements for certain Medicare- and Medicaid-participating facilities to ensure that the requirements at issue were consistent with the *Windsor* decision. We received 97 public comments in response to the December 2014 proposed rule. Following publication of the proposed rule, on June 26, 2015 in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, (135 S. Ct. 2584 (2015)), the Supreme Court held that the Due Process and Equal Protection clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment requires a state to license a marriage between two people of the same sex, and to recognize same-sex marriages lawfully performed in other States. In light of the *Obergefell* decision, we have decided to withdraw the December 2014 proposed rule. We believe that the *Obergefell* decision has addressed many of the concerns raised in the December 2014 proposed rule.

Accordingly, the proposed rule published December 12, 2014, at 79 FR 73873, is withdrawn.

Dated: August 24, 2017.

Seema Verma,
Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

Approved: September 7, 2017.

Thomas E. Price,
Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services.

[FR Doc. 2017-21419 Filed 10-3-17; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services****42 CFR Part 424**

[CMS-6012-WN]

RIN 0938-AR84**Medicare Program; Establishment of Special Payment Provisions and Requirements for Qualified Practitioners and Qualified Suppliers of Prosthetics and Custom-Fabricated Orthotics; Withdrawal****AGENCY:** Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), HHS.**ACTION:** Withdrawal of proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This document withdraws a proposed rule that was published in the

Federal Register on January 12, 2017. The proposed rule specified the qualifications needed for qualified practitioners to furnish and fabricate, and qualified suppliers to fabricate prosthetics and custom-fabricated orthotics; accreditation requirements that qualified suppliers must meet in order to bill for prosthetics and custom fabricated orthotics; requirements that an organization must meet in order to accredit qualified suppliers to bill for prosthetics and custom-fabricated orthotics; and a timeframe by which qualified practitioners and qualified suppliers must meet the applicable licensure, certification, and accreditation requirements. In addition, the proposed rule removed the current exemption from accreditation and quality standards for certain practitioners and suppliers.

DATES: As of October 4, 2017, the proposed rule published January 12, 2017, at 82 FR 3678, is withdrawn.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Spiegel, (410) 786-1909.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the January 12, 2017 *Federal Register* (82 FR 3678), we published a proposed rule titled, "Medicare Program; Establishment of Special Payment Provisions and Requirements for Qualified Practitioners and Qualified Suppliers of Prosthetics and Custom Fabricated Orthotics" to ensure that only those who are qualified to do so can furnish, fabricate, and bill for the prosthetics and custom-fabricated orthotics addressed by the proposed rule.

We received over 5,000 public comments in response to the January 12, 2017 proposed rule.

In light of the cost and time burdens that the proposed rule would create for many providers and suppliers, particularly the cost and burden for those providers and suppliers that are small businesses, and the complexity of the issues raised in the detailed public comments received, we are withdrawing the January 12, 2017 proposed rule in order to assure agency flexibility in re-examining the issues and exploring options and alternatives with stakeholders.

Accordingly, the proposed rule published January 12, 2017, at 82 FR 3678, is withdrawn.

Dated: July 21, 2017.

Demetrios L. Kouzoukas,
Principal Deputy Administrator and Director,
Center for Medicare.

Approved: September 7, 2017.

Thomas E. Price,
Secretary, Department of Health and Human
Services.

[FR Doc. 2017-21425 Filed 10-3-17; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

42 CFR Part 511

[CMS-1670-WN]

RIN 0938-AS85

Medicare Program; Part B Drug Payment Model; Withdrawal

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare &
Medicaid Services (CMS), HHS.

ACTION: Withdrawal of proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This document withdraws a proposed rule that was published in the *Federal Register* on March 11, 2016. The proposed rule discussed our proposal to implement a new Medicare payment model under section 1115A of the Social Security Act (the Act).

DATES: As of October 4, 2017, the proposed rule published March 11, 2016, at 81 FR 13230, is withdrawn.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rasheeda Johnson, (410) 786-3434.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On March 11, 2016, we published a proposed rule in the *Federal Register* entitled “Medicare Program; Part B Drug Payment Model” (81 FR 13230). The rule proposed the Part B Drug Payment Model as a two-phase model that would test whether alternative drug payment designs will lead to a reduction in Medicare expenditures, while preserving or enhancing the quality of care provided to Medicare beneficiaries. In the first phase, CMS would test a change to the 6 percent add-on to Average Sales Price (ASP) that is used to make drug payments under Part B such that the add-on would be 2.5 percent plus a flat fee (in a budget neutral manner). In the second phase, we would implement a collection of value-based purchasing tools similar to those employed by commercial health plans, pharmacy benefit managers, hospitals, and other entities that manage health benefits and drug utilization. We proposed to operate the model for 5 years; phase I would begin in the fall of

2016 (no earlier than 60 days after the rule was finalized), and phase II would begin no sooner than January 1, 2017. The proposed goal was to have both phases of the model in full operation during the last 3 years of the proposed 5-year duration to fully evaluate changes and collect sufficient data.

We received 1,350 timely public comments in response to the March 11, 2016, proposed rule. Some commenters signaled their support for the proposed rule, however, a number of commenters expressed concerns about the proposed model. As we worked to address these concerns, the complexity of the issues related to the proposed model design and the desire to increase stakeholder input led us to the decision to withdraw the March 11, 2016 proposed rule. Moving forward, we want to ensure agency flexibility in re-examining these important issues and exploring new options and alternatives with stakeholders as we develop potential payment models that support innovative approaches to improve quality, accessibility, and affordability, reduce Medicare program expenditures, and empower patients and doctors to make decisions about their health care.

Accordingly, the proposed rule published March 11, 2016, at 81 FR 13230, is withdrawn.

Dated: July 17, 2017.

Seema Verma,
Administrator, Centers for Medicare &
Medicaid Services.

Dated: August 25, 2017.

Thomas E. Price,
Secretary, Department of Health and Human
Services.

[FR Doc. 2017-21420 Filed 10-3-17; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

45 CFR Parts 160 and 162

[CMS-0037-WN]

Administrative Simplification: Certification of Compliance for Health Plans; Withdrawal

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, HHS.

ACTION: Withdrawal of proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This document withdraws the January 2, 2014, proposed rule that would have required a controlling health plan (CHP) to submit information and documentation demonstrating that it is compliant with certain standards and operating rules adopted by the

Secretary of Health and Human Services (the Secretary) under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). This proposed rule would have also established penalty fees for a CHP that failed to comply with the certification of compliance requirements.

DATES: As of October 4, 2017, the proposed rule published January 2, 2014, at 79 FR 298, is withdrawn.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Geanelle G. Herring, (410) 786-4466.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the January 2, 2014, *Federal Register* (79 FR 298), we published the proposed rule titled “Administrative Simplification: Certification of Compliance for Health Plans” which would have required controlling health plans (CHPs) to submit certain information and documentation that demonstrated compliance with the standards and operating rules adopted under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) for three electronic transactions: Eligibility for a health plan, health care claim status, and health care electronic funds transfers (EFT) and remittance advice. The proposed rule would have also established penalty fees for a CHP that failed to comply with the certification of compliance requirements.

We received approximately 72 public comments in response to the January 2, 2014 proposed rule. In light of the issues raised in the public comments received, we have decided to withdraw the January 2014 proposed rule in order to re-examine the issues and explore options and alternatives to comply with the statutory requirements. We note that the Secretary has established regulations pertaining to compliance with, and enforcement of, HIPAA Administrative Simplification standards and operating rules. The withdrawal of this proposed rule does not remove the requirements for covered entities to comply with any of those regulations codified at 45 CFR parts 160 and 162.

Accordingly, the proposed rule published January 2, 2014, at 79 FR 298, is withdrawn.

Dated: August 18, 2017.

Seema Verma,
Administrator, Centers for Medicare &
Medicaid Services.

Dated: August 30, 2017.

Thomas E. Price,
Secretary, Department of Health and Human
Services.

[FR Doc. 2017-21424 Filed 10-3-17; 8:45 am]

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