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TOP NEWS

Congress passes sweeping Tax Reform Bill



HLB

This week, the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (the Act), which now heads to the President's desk for his signature. In addition to significant changes affecting individuals, the Act includes numerous changes that may have important impacts for the operations of both nonprofit and for-profit health care entities. Most provisions are effective for tax years beginning after December 31, 2017. [Click here](#) to read a summary of key provisions.

What the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 means for Tax-Exempt Health Care Entities

Tax reform proposals leading up to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (the Act) included a number of provisions that would have profoundly impacted tax-exempt organizations and their donors. The good news is that many of those reform proposals did not make it into the Act. However, the Act does include provisions that have significant consequences for tax-exempt hospitals, health systems, community clinics and other nonprofit providers relating to executive compensation and unrelated taxable business activities. [Read more.](#)

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Tragic News — Orthopaedic surgeon and his daughter killed in mudslides



Yahoo!

A surgeon has been identified as one of the 17 people killed when flash floods and mudslides tore through a

Southern California neighborhood. Dr. Mark Montgomery was a member of the Santa Barbara College Hospital medical staff. [READ MORE](#)

AAOE Approved as a 2018 Qualified Clinical Data Registry



AAOE

The American Association of Orthopaedic Executives has been approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to participate in the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System for 2018 as a Qualified Clinical Data Registry. Why does this matter? [READ MORE](#)

New California Hospital Association CEO



CHA

Carmela Coyle, President/CEO of the Maryland Hospital Association, has been selected as the new President & CEO of the California Hospital Association and its parent organization, the California Association of Hospitals & Health Systems. Coyle will replace long-time CHA President/CEO C. Duane Dauner, who is retiring. [READ MORE](#)

Important Noridian Medicare changes — Effective February 5, 2018



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1. NMP and/or IVR Use Required for Eligibility Inquiries — Effective February 5, 2018 Effective February 5, 2018, Medicare will require providers to use the Noridian Medicare Portal (NMP) and/or the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) for all eligibility inquiries.

- [NMP](#): Provides Part A and B effective and termination dates, deductible remaining, ineligible period, beneficiary address, occupational, physical, and speech therapy, blood deductible, Managed Care Organization and Health Maintenance Organization, Medicare Secondary Payer, Home Health Episode History, Hospice, Hospital periods, Skilled Nursing Facility periods, End Stage Renal Disease effective dates and benefit type, and preventive information
 - View the [Eligibility Education-on-Demand Tutorial](#) to describe eligibility inquiries and response features
- [IVR](#): Provides effective and termination dates, deductible information, Managed Care, MSP, home health, hospice, SNF periods, pneumococcal vaccines, and date of death
- [Professional Provider Telecommunications Network \(PPTN\)](#): Eligibility for providers who use PPTN are not impacted by this change

The [CMS Internet Only Manual \(IOM\), Publication 100-09, Chapter 6, Section 50.1](#) mandates that all providers first access inquiries through self-service technology, "...Providers shall be required to use the IVR system to access claim status and beneficiary eligibility information. CSRs shall refer providers back to the IVR system if they have questions about claims status or eligibility that can be handled by the IVR system...Each MAC has the discretion to also require that providers use the Internet-based provider portal for claim status and eligibility inquiries if the portal has these functionalities."

This process change will allow Noridian to meet CMS requirements and our CSRs to assist callers with more complex inquiries which cannot be answered through these self-service tools.

2. Enrollment Application Status Tool Use Required — Effective February 5, 2018

Effective February 5, 2018, Noridian Customer Service will require providers to use the Enrollment Application Status Search self-service tool to access application related details. The [Enrollment Application Status Search](#) tool allows providers and suppliers to follow his/her enrollment application progress. Simply enter the Application/Reference Number or Web Tracking ID into the search field and select "View Application Status."

If a match is identified, the results will vary depending upon the application progression. Some of the high-level progression levels are listed below.

- Received

- In Progress
- Corrections Requested
- Completed
- Unable to Complete

Requiring providers to use this tool will allow Noridian to meet CMS requirements and our CSRs to assist with more complex inquiries which cannot be answered through this self-service tool.



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