

Important Message from Medicare (IM)

- Should we give the IM when a beneficiary is discharging to hospice from a Medicare covered inpatient hospital stay?

No, you should not give a follow-up IM when a beneficiary elects the hospice benefit, if the initial copy of the IM was delivered at or around the time of admission.

Full IM instructions can be found at Section 200 of Chapter 30 in the Medicare Claims Processing Manual, located here. <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/clm104c30.pdf>

- Should we give the IM when a beneficiary is transferring from one Medicare covered inpatient stay to another facility, also at a covered inpatient hospital level of care?

No, you should not give the IM when beneficiaries are transferring from one inpatient hospital setting to another inpatient hospital setting.

Full IM instructions can be found at Section 200 of Chapter 30 in the Medicare Claims Processing Manual, located here. <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/clm104c30.pdf>

- May we deliver and maintain the IM electronically?

Yes, you may deliver and electronically maintain the IM. If a hospital elects to deliver an IM viewed on an electronic screen before signing, the beneficiary must be given the option of requesting paper delivery over electronic delivery if that is what the beneficiary prefers. Regardless of whether a paper or electronic version is delivered and regardless of whether the signature is digitally captured or manually penned, the beneficiary must be given a paper copy of the IM with the required beneficiary specific information inserted, at the time of notice delivery.

Full IM instructions can be found at Section 200 of Chapter 30 in the Medicare Claims Processing Manual, located here. <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/clm104c30.pdf>

- Should we give the IM when the inpatient hospital benefit has exhausted?

No, you should not give the IM when the inpatient hospital benefit days have exhausted.

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- Are hospitals required to deliver the IM to Medicare Advantage enrollees?

Yes, hospitals must deliver the IM to beneficiaries in Original Medicare (fee-for-service) and Medicare Advantage enrollees, in accordance with CMS guidance.

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