

Report on Medicare Compliance Volume 30, Number 44. December 13, 2021

Holidays Are Vehicle for Compliance Treats, But Keep Stark in Mind

By Nina Youngstrom

Whether it's a holiday raffle or an invitation to visit the compliance department for gingerbread cookies, the season to be jolly can be used to educate employees about compliance in a lighthearted way—although compliance professionals have to keep an eye on nonmonetary compensation under the Stark Law.

Leveraging the holidays is a fun way to raise awareness about compliance, similar to Compliance Week activities, said attorney Bob Wade, with Barnes & Thornburg in South Bend, Indiana. It's another opportunity to blunt the perception employees sometimes have that "compliance is all about no, about being the traffic cop," he said. "If you can wrap something around the holidays, it's a great vehicle to do those sorts of things."

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