

Report on Medicare Compliance Volume 29, Number 11. March 23, 2020 News Briefs: March 23, 2020

By Nina Youngstrom

◆ **There are signs of life to the national hospital reviews of short stays and high-weighted MS-DRGs (HWDRGs).** A CMS spokesperson said Avar Consulting, a Beneficiary and Family-Centered Care Quality Improvement Organization (BFCC-QIO), “has been tasked to collect medical records relative to HWDRGs during the procurement process.” However, Avar Consulting won’t do the reviews. “The contractor is performing a medical record collection function in advance of contract award to expedite processing,” the spokesperson said. CMS will select a new contractor for the audits. Last year, it suspended short-stay and high-weighted MS-DRG reviews by two QIOs in favor of consolidating them with one national contractor.

◆ **CMS said it will put out a Comparative Billing Report (CBR) in late March on lower extremity joint replacement.**^[1] The report will focus on providers who submit Medicare Part B claims. CBRs are not publicly available, because they’re only sent to Medicare Part B providers who are outliers. CMS’s CBR contractor has generated at least 10 CBRs on different risk areas, including office visits, subsequent hospital visits, emergency department services and Vitamin D testing.^[2]

¹ CMS, “Thursday, March 19, 2020,” *MLN Connects*, <https://go.cms.gov/3ddskd4>.

² Nina Youngstrom, “CMS Sends Billing Outlier Reports to Part B Providers; Metrics Show How to Identify Them,” *Report on Medicare Compliance* 28, no. 31 (September 9, 2019), <http://bit.ly/2AEx35p>.

This publication is only available to subscribers. To view all documents, please log in or purchase access.

[Purchase Login](#)