DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

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NEW products from the Medicare Learning Network® (MLN)

- "Hospice Related Services – Part B" Podcast, ICN 908995, downloadable only.

MLN Matters® Number: SE1402

Related Change Request (CR) #: NA

Related CR Release Date: NA

Effective Date: NA

Related CR Transmittal #: NA

Implementation NA

Updated Mobile Applications (Apps) for Open Payments

Provider Types Affected

This MLN Matters® Special Edition (SE) is intended for physicians, providers and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs), for services to Medicare beneficiaries.

What You Need to Know

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is issuing this article to alert the provider community of updates to the mobile applications (apps), *Open Payments Mobile for Industry* and *Open Payments Mobile for Physicians,* implemented as a result of user feedback to CMS. See the Background and Key Points sections of this article for details.

Also, a part of SE1402 is new technical documentation: "The Open Payments QR Code Reader How-To Guide." Included are the technical instructions for creating or importing contact information using a QR code reader and generating a QR code to transfer profile or payment information to other user devices.

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Background

In July 2013, CMS released two mobile apps: *Open Payments Mobile for Industry* and *Open Payments Mobile for Physicians.* Below are enhancements to the original Open Payments mobile apps. The changes to the apps include the following:

- Streamlining the menu on the Welcome screen;
- Adding the ability to export **all** profile data associated with a payment into CSV format; and
- Developing a new function to view reports of payments in bar and pie charts.

The apps are intended to support reporting under the Open Payments program. For more details refer to: http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/National-Physician-Payment-Transparency-Program/index.html on the CMS website. For help with the apps contact the CMS helpdesk at OpenPayments@cms.hhs.gov.

Key Points of SE1402

If you already downloaded the apps, you will need to run an update to take advantage of the new app functionality. To do so, visit either the Google Play™ app store or iOSApple™ app store, look for your available updates, and select the Open Payments apps to download the updates. If you have not yet downloaded the apps, search for Open Payments in the applicable app store and you'll be prompted to download the newly updated versions.

In response to user feedback, the table below describes the enhancements made to the apps since their initial launch in July 2013. All changes are intuitive and will add elements of ease expected by app users.

Enhancement Topic	Details – What It Does
Changes that Apply to Both Apps (*Open Payments Mobile for Industry* and *Open Payments Mobile for Physicians*)	
Streamlined "Welcome" screen options	• A number of infrequently used menu options (e.g., "Program Information" and "Change Password") moved from the "Welcome" screen and now appear in a hidden menu. • To access the menu, swipe to the right at the "Welcome" screen.
Reports/Statistics	• A new "Reports/Statistics" button, accessible on the "Welcome" screen, allows the user to create a chart (bar and pie), showing their transfer of value data sorted by physician (within *Open Payments Mobile for Industry*) or vendor (within *Open Payments Mobile for Physicians*). • This new chart creation capability will streamline data review.

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Enhancement Topic	Details – What It Does
CSV exporting	• When payment data is exported via CSV format, **all** profile data for the associated vendor/physician is included in the CSV file (including address, phone number, etc.). • The prior app version included only vendor/physician name in the CSV file. This enhancement will simplify the data review process.
Streamlined "Add Payment" process	• The steps to "Add Payment" are streamlined to allow the user to enter contact information for the vendor or physician, while staying within the "Add Payment" menu. • The prior app version required the user to first enter contact information for the vendor or physician separately, and then go to the "Add Payment" menu.
Easy payment duplication	• A new button available on the "View Payment" screen allows payment data to be easily duplicated, in case a physician or vendor has multiple occurrences of the same payment. • The only data field that needs to be re-entered is the date.
Vendors/Physicians sorted alphabetically	• In "Manage Vendors/Physicians," vendors or physicians are now listed alphabetically. • The prior app version listed vendors and physicians in the order in which they were entered.
Email/print QR code added	• A "Share" button is available to email or print a QR code that is generated within the app, for sharing at a later time.
Payment QR code warning added	• After a payment QR code is scanned, a red warning message appears to remind the user to manually add the vendor or physician name to the payment data conveyed in the QR code.
Additional data elements added in "Add Payment" > "Travel & Lodging"	• When nature of payment in "Add Payment" is "Travel & Lodging," the following additional data elements can be entered: city, state, and country of travel (note that these new data elements are required for reporting purposes; but remember, the apps are not used for reporting data, only for tracking it).
Tablet support	• Both apps are optimized for viewing on tablet devices.

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Enhancement Topic	Details – What It Does
Changes that Apply to Just One App *Open Payments Mobile for Physicians*	
"Manage Companies" added	• Within "Manage Vendors", a new data field allows users to assign vendors to companies when entering new vendor information. • Company information is needed for the "Reports/Statistics" functionality to illustrate all payments by company name.

The updated Frequently Asked Questions about the mobile apps contain all the details about these enhancements (link to the document above, or visit the "Apps for Tracking Assistance" page on the Open Payments website).

QR Code Technical Guide Available for Apps: Also now available to support use of the Open Payments apps is a how-to-guide that explains the technical details associated with how to create Quick Response (QR) codes usable in the apps. "The Open Payments QR Code Reader How-To Guide" includes detailed, highly technical instructions for creating or importing contact information using a QR code reader, and generating a QR code to transfer profile or payment information to other user's devices.

Additional Information

If you have any questions, please contact your A/B MAC contractor at their toll-free number, which may be found at: http://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/provider-compliance-interactive-map/index.html on the CMS website.

To review "The Open Payments Mobile Application Quick Response (QR) Code Reader Documentation: A How-To Guide to Create Java Script Object Notation (JSON) QR Code" referenced in this SE1402, see http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/National-Physician-Payment-Transparency-Program/Downloads/Open-Payments-QR-Code-Reader-How-To-Guide-%5bDecember-2013%5d.pdf on the CMS website.

To review the series of SE articles leading up to SE1402 see the following:

1. MLN Matters® SE1303 "Information on the National Physician Payment Transparency Program: Open Payments," is available at http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/SE1303.pdf on the CMS website.

2. MLN Matters® SE1329 "Mobile Apps for the Open Payments program (Physician Payments Sunshine Act)" is available at: http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/SE1329.pdf on the CMS website.

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3. MLN Matters® SE1330 "Open Payments: An Overview for Physicians and Teaching Hospitals" may be found at: http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE1330.pdf on the CMS website.

News Flash - Generally, Medicare Part B covers one flu vaccination and its administration per flu season for beneficiaries without co-pay or deductible. Now is the perfect time to vaccinate beneficiaries. Health care providers are encouraged to get a flu vaccine to help protect themselves from the flu and to keep from spreading it to their family, co-workers, and patients. Note: The flu vaccine is not a Part D-covered drug. For more information, visit:

- MLN Matters® Article #MM8433, "Influenza Vaccine Payment Allowances - Annual Update for 2013-2014 Season"
- MLN Matters® Article #SE1336, "2013-2014 Influenza (Flu) Resources for Health Care Professionals"
- HealthMap Vaccine Finder - a free, online service where users can search for locations offering flu and other adult vaccines. While some providers may offer flu vaccines, those that don't can help their patients locate flu vaccines within their local community.
- The CDC website for Free Resources, including prescription-style tear-pads that allow you to give a customized flu shot reminder to patients at high-risk for complications from the flu.

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