

Hamilton Headlines

JANUARY 12TH, 2015



Exciting News!!

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Government Releases Form 5500 Changes

The government recently announced changes to the Form 5500 and the

Medicare Cuts Payments To 721 Hospitals With Highest Rates of infections, Injuries

In its toughest crackdown yet on medical errors, the federal government is cutting payments to 721 hospitals for having high rates of infections and other patient injuries, records released Thursday show.

Medicare assessed these new penalties against some of the most renowned hospitals in the nation, including the Cleveland Clinic, Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia and Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, Pa.

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CMS Names Counties Requiring Health Plan Language Assistance

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has released the 2015 list of counties where health plans must provide information in a language other than English for individuals, as well as employers buying through Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP), on the federally-facilitated marketplace.

Form 5500-SF. The changes, released by the IRS, Employee Benefits Security Administration and the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, are listed on the Department of Labor's website. They include:

DOL Form M-1 compliance information. The MEWA Form M-1 compliance information that was filed as an attachment for 2013 now appears as three new questions on the Form 5500.

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Under the Affordable Care Act, non-grandfathered health plans and carriers are required to provide a summary benefits of coverage (SBC) and uniform glossary in a "culturally and linguistically appropriate matter" when more than 10% of a population in a county speaks a language other than English. Those languages include Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog and Navajo.

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Outlook 2015: Disability and Absence Management

The disability and absence management landscape continues to undergo significant change. Most of the changes are driven by legal and regulatory requirements, which have increased in scale and scope over the past few years.

One of the more significant changes, of course, is the Affordable Care Act. We are only now beginning to see the disability management impacts driven by an increased emphasis on wellness, prevention and obesity. Disability and absence management professionals are learning a great deal more about these topics. The same is true of the issues surrounding the Family and Medical Leave Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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