



HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS
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COMPLIANCE ALERT 11-02

CMS Issues Proposed Rule to Require Written Notice to All Medicare Beneficiaries of Right to Voice Concern on Quality of Care

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services issued a [proposed rule](#) on February 2, 2011 that would require Medicare-participating providers to give Medicare beneficiaries written notice of their right to contact a Medicare quality improvement or State Survey organization with quality of care concerns under the Medicare program.

According to a release in the *American Hospital Association's* "NewsNow" on February 2, 2011, "currently, only beneficiaries admitted to hospitals as inpatients are required to receive information about contacting their state QIO regarding quality of care issues." This new rule would apply to *all* Medicare patients. This notification requirement would now include patients at hospitals and critical access hospitals; facilities that provide outpatient physical therapy and speech-language-pathology services; comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facilities; long-term care facilities; ambulatory surgical centers; portable x-ray services; and clinics.

CMS will accept comments on the proposed rule through April 3.

Source: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-02-02/pdf/2011-2275.pdf>