

ELDERPLAN PROVIDER NOTICE

ISSUE: Balance Billing Re-education

AUDIENCE: Elderplan Providers

DETAILS: This notice serves as reminder to our provider community to ensure compliance of the standards of the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Program. QMB, the State Medicaid benefit covers Medicare deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments, subject to State payment limits.

- Providers **are NOT allowed to balance bill QMB individuals** regardless of whether the State reimburses providers for the full Medicare cost-sharing amounts.
- Medicare providers **MAY NOT balance bill QMB** individuals for Medicare cost-sharing.
- All original Medicare and Medicare Advantage providers --not only those that accept Medicaid--must **refrain** from charging QMB individuals for Medicare cost-sharing.

Providers who inappropriately balance bill QMB individuals are subject to sanctions.

WHEN: Effective immediately

Federal law bars Medicare providers from balance billing a QMB beneficiary under any circumstances. See Section 1902(n)(3)(B) of the Social Security Act, as modified by Section 4714 of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. (Please note, this section of the Act is available at http://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title19/1902.htm on the Internet.)

Questions? Contact Elderplan's Provider Services Call Center at (718) 921-7979