



October 9, 2014

Re: Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals (OMHA) Medicare Appellant Forum

The Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals (OMHA) will host its second Medicare Appellant Forum on October 29, 2014. OMHA's first forum was held on February 12, 2014. The event was well attended, with 807 participants — 307 in-person and 500 by webinar. The first forum focused on the then-current status of OMHA appeals, outlined the first steps being taken to lessen the backlog, shared information on steps appellants could take submitting their requests for hearing and during the appeals process that would increase efficiency at OMHA, and included presentations from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Appeals (CMS) and the Departmental Appeals Board (DAB).

Based on attendees' responses to OMHA's first Appellant Forum, including appreciation for OMHA's transparency, OMHA is hosting a second forum to keep you apprised of events since we last met, including steps and initiatives the Department of Health and Human Services is taking at all levels of the Medicare appeals process to address the appeals backlog. The second OMHA Medicare Appellant Forum will be held on October 29, 2014, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., in the Wilbur J. Cohen building, located at 330 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, D.C. 20024.

The second OMHA Medicare Appellant Forum will provide us with an opportunity to share current information on OMHA operations and discuss the initiatives that have been undertaken to address the appeals backlog at the OMHA-level and streamline the adjudication of appeals. CMS officials will provide information on initiatives that CMS is undertaking to address the appeals workload and officials from the DAB will also provide information on the Medicare Appeals Council operations. We will also have a question and answer period for in-person attendees. If you plan on attending by telephone-conference, instructions for pre-submission of questions will be provided as part of the registration process.

To register for the OMHA Medicare Appellant Forum, please visit the OMHA website at: <http://www.hhs.gov/omha/index.html>. We look forward to your participation at our forum.

Sincerely,

Nancy J. Griswold

Nancy J. Griswold
Chief Administrative Law Judge