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The New HHS National Clearinghouse for Long-Term Care Information Website

Key Words

SE0680, HHS, National, Clearinghouse, LTC, Long-Term

Provider Types Affected

Physicians and providers and their staff who provide services to Medicare beneficiaries

Key Points

- This special edition (SE) article SE0680, is being provided by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to inform providers that the National Clearinghouse for Long-Term Care Information is a new user-friendly consumer website that provides in-depth objective information on understanding, planning, and paying for long-term care.
- This important website is a collaborative effort between the Administration on Aging (AoA), CMS, and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE).
- It was developed as part of the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) of 2005 (Section 6021 (d)) which allocated funds to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to help Americans take an active role in planning for their future.
- Located at <http://www.longtermcare.gov>, the Clearinghouse website features information and tools to help people better understand the risks for and the costs of long-term care, and it is part of ongoing efforts to increase public awareness about the importance of advance planning for future long-term care needs.
- Given that one of the biggest barriers to planning is misinformation about long-term care, the Clearinghouse website is designed to provide people with the trusted information and resources they need to take an active role in planning for possible future health care needs.
- With an emphasis on the importance of future planning, the website provides a number of resources and interactive tools to help people prepare for their future healthcare needs including:
 - Objective information on specific long-term care planning options, including the pros and cons of private financing options such as personal savings, long-term care insurance, reverse mortgages, and other options;
 - In-depth information on the availability and limitations of Medicaid in all states, including

eligibility and estate recovery requirements;

- State-specific long-term care insurance Partnership Programs under Medicaid;
 - Planning resources that include an interactive savings calculator, information on the costs of care across the United States, and examples illustrating how individuals have planned successfully; and
 - State and national contact information for a range of long-term care programs and planning services.
- The website also includes the Long-Term Care Planning Kit, initially developed for the “Own Your Future” Campaign. Information regarding this campaign is in MLN Matters article SE0671, located at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0671.pdf> on the CMS website.
 - A survey showed that consumers who received the Long-Term Care Planning Kit were twice as likely to take some type of planning action, including evaluating their existing coverage, talking to a financial planner, buying long-term care insurance, or considering a reverse mortgage, as those who did not receive the Planning Kit.
 - The Planning Kit can be ordered or downloaded on the Clearinghouse website at <http://www.longtermcare.gov>, as well as calling 1-866-PLAN-LTC. It can also be ordered or downloaded at <http://www.aoa.gov/ownyourfuture>.

Important Links

The related MLN Matters article can be found at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0680.pdf> on the CMS website.

For more information about the “Own Your Future” campaign and the National Clearinghouse for Long-Term Care Information, please visit <http://www.longtermcare.gov>.