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Administrator
Washington, DC 20201

James L. Madara, M.D.
Executive Vice President, CEO
American Medical Association
515 North State Street
Chicago, IL 60654

RECEIVED

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JAMES L. MADARA, MD
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, CEO

Dear Dr. Madara:

Thank you for your letter expressing your appreciation to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for its efforts in streamlining both the electronic and paper enrollment processes. You also requested that CMS eliminate two required fields recently added to the form CMS-855I enrollment application and the corresponding internet-based Provider Enrollment, Chain and Ownership System (PECOS) equivalent. Specifically, you requested that CMS remove the question "Do you accept new Medicare patients?" (new patients), and eliminate the mandatory completion of the Section L-Advanced Diagnostic Imaging (ADI) Suppliers only. Based in part on your comments and recommendations, we have taken steps to make both fields optional.

The "accepting new patient" indicator was added solely to identify providers on the Physician Compare Web site that were accepting new patients. Beneficiary feedback indicated that this would be a very valuable piece of information to have when they are searching for a Medicare provider. In addition, we are also looking at simplifying the ADI information as you suggested; we will keep you apprised of our progress.

I appreciate you sharing your concerns with me. I hope this information is helpful and resolves your inquiry.

Sincerely,

Donald M. Berwick, M.D.