

On February 1st, CMS's Center for Program Integrity (CPI) and Center for Medicaid, CHIP and Survey & Certification (CMCS) issued a bulletin to State Medicaid Directors and State Program Integrity Directors providing information on delaying State implementation of their Medicaid Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC) programs. Previously, in an October 1, 2010 letter to State Medicaid Directors and CMS's Proposed Rule on the Medicaid RAC program, CMS stated that States were expected to fully implement their RAC programs by April 1, 2011. In the February 1st bulletin, CMS has now determined that States will not be required to implement their RAC programs by the proposed April 1, 2011 date. Instead, when the Final Rule on the Medicaid RAC program is published later this year, it will indicate the new implementation date. The February 1st bulletin can be viewed at <http://www.cms.gov/MedicaidIntegrityProgram/Downloads/6411racdelay.pdf>

CMS's announcement follows a recent letter from the AMA and eighty state and specialty societies advocating for substantial direction from CMS regarding Medicaid RAC program requirements prior to implementation. The letter is posted on the AMA's RAC webpage at <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama1/pub/upload/mm/399/rac-letter-10jan2011.pdf>

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