
CMS Final Rule - Omnibus Burden Reduction

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On September 26, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services released a Final Rule titled "Omnibus Burden Reduction." While the rule focuses on processes within health care facilities, a multitude of these changes will impact physicians practicing there. To highlight a few areas, CMS ruled:

1. Portable x-ray services can be ordered in writing, by telephone, or by electronic methods; the requirements for technician training is reduced.
2. Hospitals can reduce their requirements regarding pre-surgical assessments such that an outpatient visit can be used in lieu of a comprehensive H&P in certain circumstances.
3. Advanced practice providers can document progress notes in psychiatric hospitals.
4. Community health centers will be under policy review every two years, instead of annually.
5. Ambulatory surgery centers are no longer required to ensure that physicians have hospital admitting privileges, replacing the requirement with an "effective" transfer procedure.

These are only a handful of the revisions announced by CMS as part of the government's "Patients over Paperwork" initiative. For more information, read CMS' [press release](#).

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