

## **ABN Form Revised for 2008: Must be Used By September 1st**

The Advanced Beneficiary Notice is now known as the **Advanced Beneficiary Notice of Noncoverage (ABN)**. The name change was instituted by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to more clearly convey the form's purpose.

New features of the revised ABN include the following:

- It replaces both the existing general ABN (ABN-G) and laboratory ABN (ABN-L) forms;
- It may be used for voluntary notifications in place of the Notice of Exclusion from Medicare Benefits (NEMB) form;
- It has a mandatory field for cost estimates of the items/services to be provided; and
- It has a new option under which an individual may choose to receive an item/service and pay for it out-of-pocket, rather than have a claim submitted to Medicare.

The new form was implemented by CMS on earlier this year and can be used now. Mandatory use of the new ABN (CMS-R-131) form for all providers and suppliers begins September 1, 2008.

According to CMS, the new ABN form cannot be altered even to translate it into another language. CMS has created a Spanish language version of the new form. Because of the prohibition on altering the form, the ABN has to be a stand-alone document, (i.e. nothing should be copied on the back of the form). However, the ABN can be clipped or stapled to other documents as part of a packet.

The revised ABN and form instructions can be accessed on the CMS website at:  
[http://www.cms.hhs.gov/BNI/02\\_ABNGABNL.asp#TopOfPage](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/BNI/02_ABNGABNL.asp#TopOfPage)

Questions regarding the revised ABN can be sent to CMS via email at: [RevisedABN\\_ODF@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:RevisedABN_ODF@cms.hhs.gov)