



From: Daniel E. Ciolek, CSC Project Director - STATS
To: Interested outpatient therapy stakeholders
Date: October 24, 2008
Re: Invitation to the STATS Stakeholder Kickoff Meeting

On September 25, 2008 CSC was awarded the two-year Short Term Alternatives for Therapy Services (STATS) contract by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to perform follow-on claims analysis and to work with outpatient therapy stakeholders to develop recommendations for improving outpatient therapy payment policy in the short-term. The contract runs from October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2010. The CMS STATS Project Officer is Dorothy Shannon.

Your organization has been identified as a group that has participated in, or had demonstrated interest in prior outpatient therapy studies, and may possess knowledge and insights that may be helpful to CSC in providing reasonable and practical recommendations.

The following are highlights of the major work to be completed during the STATS contract:

- Update utilization analyses of outpatient physical therapy (PT), occupational therapy (OT), and speech-language pathology (SLP) services during 2007 and 2008 to identify trends including:
 - Overall trends,
 - By therapy type (PT, OT, SLP),
 - By therapy setting, and
 - By episode
- Develop a process for CMS to use to generate quarterly utilization trend reports of recent claims activity.
- Develop recommended methods to operationalize alternative policies which involves:
 - Analyzing existing therapy measurement tools for consideration as part of the policy recommendations,
 - Development of practice (coverage policy) guidelines, and
 - Working with therapy stakeholders to create practical and achievable policy approaches.

We are inviting you to attend the STATS project outpatient therapy stakeholder kickoff meeting on Thursday, November 6, 2008 in room C-112 from 2:00-4:00 PM at the CMS headquarters (7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21244).

At this meeting we will outline the major project tasks and deliverables. In addition we will provide details regarding how your organization can participate in the project, particularly in the topic areas that align with the three activities under the “Develop recommended methods to operationalize alternative policies” task described in the third bullet above.

We are seeking volunteers that would be interested in participating in a variety of workgroup meetings we will be holding throughout the contract. Different small workgroups will work on focused topics (e.g. clinical issues, policy issues, and assessment instrument issues). Most workgroups meetings will be held via conference call/webinar format. There may also be



periodic large group in-person presentations to provide summary updates of the overall project progress.