

## **Update on CMS rule requiring dentists in MA plans to be enrolled in an "approved status"**

In the fall of 2016, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a new rule which included a requirement for dentists in Medicare Advantage (MA) plans also known as Part C plans, to be enrolled in an "approved status" in the Medicare program. ADA contacted CMS to (1) question the requirement and (2) confirm whether CMS form 855o could be used for this purpose. 855o is a shorter and easier form developed by CMS in consultation with ADA to allow easier enrollment for dentists in Medicare. After responding on January 17 that the form 855o would suffice, CMS subsequently on February 15 recanted its earlier guidance and advised that all dentists treating Medicare Advantage beneficiaries would need to comply with the rule AND that the form 855i, and not form 855o, will be required for enrollment in Medicare to participate in Medicare Advantage plans. The compliance date is January 2019.

Since the revised guidance, ADA has sent our objections in writing to CMS staff at the Center for Program Integrity. In addition, we have met with senior HHS personnel, who are very interested in eliminating unnecessary regulation, and brought this issue to their attention. We plan to communicate with our members once we have final confirmation on CMS' position and the outcome of our efforts.