



PRACTICE GROUP

email alert

Date: February 25, 2014

CMS Announced New Temporary Enrollment Moratoria and Extended Existing Enrollment Moratoria on Home Health Agencies and Ground Ambulance Suppliers

By Brooke Robertson*

Using authority provided by the Affordable Care Act, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) imposed [new temporary moratoria and extended existing moratoria](#) on the enrollment of home health agencies (HHAs) and ground ambulance suppliers in certain counties across the country in an effort to combat potential fraud, waste, and abuse in Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

The new enrollment moratoria affect HHAs in Fort Lauderdale, Detroit, Dallas, and Houston and ground ambulance suppliers in the Greater Philadelphia area. CMS also is extending the current enrollment moratoria for HHAs in Chicago and Miami and for ground ambulance suppliers in the Houston area. Both the new moratoria and the extension of existing moratoria began on January 31, and will remain in effect for a period six months unless lifted earlier by CMS.

CMS consulted with the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Office of Inspector General and the U.S. Department of Justice in determining that temporary enrollment moratoria were warranted for HHAs and ground ambulance suppliers in these geographic locations. Key indicators of potential fraud risk, such as a high ratio of providers and suppliers to beneficiaries, a high growth rate of provider and supplier enrollment, and higher than average utilization, were reviewed in making this determination. In addition, CMS confirmed that the moratoria would not create any access to care issues for Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP beneficiaries.

CMS may extend the enrollment moratoria in increments of six months. The decision to extend any moratoria will be published by CMS in the *Federal Register*.

**We would like to thank Brooke E. Robertson (Husch Blackwell LLP, St. Louis, MO), for providing this email alert.*

Disclaimer: The information obtained by the use of this service is for reference use only and does not constitute the rendering of legal, financial, or other professional advice by the American Health Lawyers Association.

© 2014 American Health Lawyers Association

This article was originally published by the American Health Lawyers Association. Copyright 2014, American Health Lawyers Association, Washington, DC. Reprint permission granted.