

# Health Headlines

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## CMS Unveils New Medicare Summary Notice

On March 7, 2012, CMS introduced a redesigned claims and benefits notice for Medicare beneficiaries. The new notice, said CMS in a press release, is part of a broader consumer protection effort to make information about the program “clearer, more accessible, and easier for beneficiaries and their caregivers to understand.”

Notably, the notice contains a new “How to Report Fraud” section, instructing beneficiaries to report instances of suspected Medicare fraud. The notice lists the receipt of free medical services and billing for services not received as examples of fraud. The notice also explicitly advises beneficiaries that vigilance can pay off—tips that lead to “uncovering fraud” may result in financial rewards.

Other new features of the redesigned notice include:

- A set of defined terms used throughout the notice.
- A clear explanation of where the beneficiary stands with respect to his/her deductible and whether Medicare has approved all services.
- “[C]onsumer-friendly descriptions for medical procedures.”

CMS will soon make the new notice available to beneficiaries online at [www.MyMedicare.gov](http://www.MyMedicare.gov). Beginning in 2013, CMS will send notices to beneficiaries each quarter.

[Click here to view the new notice](#) and [here to read the corresponding press release](#).

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