## O B E R KALLER

# Payment Matters®

#### Subscribe

Reprints

Health Law Group

www.ober.com

**Payment Matters** 

**DECEMBER 18, 2009** 

### CMS Finally Finalizes Medicare Claims Appeal Procedures

#### In this Issue

Will New RAC Documentation Limits Really Provide Relief?

#### FFY 2010 Wage Index Appeals Due Soon

CMS Finally Finalizes Medicare Claims Appeal Procedures

#### Payment Group

The Payment Group is a work group within Ober|Kaler's Health Law Group.

#### Principals

Thomas W. Coons Leslie Demaree Goldsmith Carel T. Hedlund S. Craig Holden Julie E. Kass Paul W. Kim

Robert E. Mazer

Christine M. Morse

Laurence B. Russell

Donna J. Senft

Susan A. Turner

Associates

Paul W. Kim 410-347-7344 pwkim@ober.com Mark A Stanley 410-347-7353 mastanley@ober.com

The appeal of Part A and B claims denied by Medicare contractors, including the RACs, is subject to a process that was revised by an interim final rule with comment period issued on March 8, 2005, pursuant to a proposal published on November 15, 2002. On December 9, 2009, CMS finally addressed the 26 comments that it received in 2005 and finalized the rule in a **43-page Federal Register publication [PDF]**. Other than technical revisions (e.g., "days" vs. "calendar days" and "final" vs. "final and binding"), CMS did not make any substantive change that affects appeal rights, deadlines, format, etc.

**Ober|Kaler's Comments:** This is one final rule that you can place on the back burner.

Copyright© 2009, Ober, Kaler, Grimes & Shriver

Kristin Cilento Carter

Joshua J. Freemire

Mark A. Stanley

Lisa D. Stevenson