

BREAKING NEWS – Home Health Review Choice Demonstration Extended 5 Years

Source: NAHC, May 17, 2024

Today the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) posted a notice on the Home Health Review Choice Demonstration (RCD) webpage announcing that the demonstration is being extended for five years. The demonstration was scheduled to end on May 31, 2024, and the extension is not a surprise. States currently in the demonstration – **Illinois, Ohio, Texas, North Carolina, Florida and Oklahoma** – will continue in their current review cycle and follow their regular cycle timelines. CMS did not mention in the notice whether the demonstration will extend to other states.

As part of the extension, CMS is removing Choice 3: *Minimal Review with 25% Payment Reduction* from the initial choice selections. Palmetto GBA will proactively reach out to coordinate with the small number of affected providers to make a new review choice selection. Current Choice 3 providers must select between the other two initial review choice options: Pre-Claim Review or Postpayment Review according to the following dates:

- Choice selection period start date: June 17, 2024
- Choice selection period end date: July 1, 2024
- Cycle effective date: July 15, 2024

Providers who do not make an initial review choice selection will default to participate in Choice 2: *Postpayment Review*. Providers with less than 10 reviews at the conclusion of the current cycle, will have their results included in the next cycle's results.

Any providers who feel it is a hardship to continue participation in their current review choice selection and would like to modify their choice selection should notify Palmetto by June 14, 2024, to ensure their desired choice selection is updated.