

U.S. House and Senate Notification
Wednesday, December 29, 2010

To: Congressional Health Staff

From: Amy Hall
Director, Office of Legislation
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Re: CMS Announces Establishment of Federal Coordinated Health Care Office

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is pleased to announce the formal establishment of the CMS Federal Coordinated Health Care Office. This new office, created by Section 2602 of the Affordable Care Act, will bring together officers and employees at CMS in order to more effectively integrate benefits for beneficiaries enrolled in the Medicare and Medicaid programs. The Federal Coordinated Health Care Office will be led by Melanie Bella.

The Federal Coordinated Health Care Office will focus on:

- Fostering overall improvements in the quality of health care and long-term services for individuals who are dually eligible for both Medicaid and Medicare
- Simplifying processes for dual eligible individuals to access items and services available to them
- Increasing dual eligible individuals' understanding of and satisfaction with coverage under the Medicare and Medicaid programs
- Eliminating regulatory conflicts between rules under the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and
- Improving coordination between the Federal Government and States

Dual eligibles make up 16 to 18 percent of enrollees in Medicare and Medicaid (totaling over nine million beneficiaries), but account for roughly 25 to 45 percent of spending in these programs respectively.

The Federal Register notice announcing the Federal Coordinated Care Office may be viewed today only at the following link: http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2010-32957_PI.pdf. The notice will be published in the December 30th Federal Register, where it can be accessed through the following link: http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/frcont10.html.

Please contact the CMS Office of Legislation at (202) 690-8220 with any questions.