

**Southern Maine Health Care – (207) 283-7000  
Important Message from Medicare**

**Patient name:**

**Patient number:**

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**Your Rights as a Hospital Inpatient:**

- You can receive Medicare covered services. This includes medically necessary hospital services and services you may need after you are discharged, if ordered by your doctor. You have a right to know about these services, who will pay for them, and where you can get them.
  - You can be involved in any decisions about your hospital stay.
  - You can report any concerns you have about the quality of care you receive to your QIO at: KEPRO – QIO Program 1-888-319-8452 or TTY 1-855-843-4776. The QIO is the independent reviewer authorized by Medicare to review the decision to discharge you.
  - You can work with the hospital to prepare for your safe discharge and arrange for services you may need after you leave the hospital. When you no longer need inpatient hospital care, your doctor or the hospital staff will inform you of your planned discharge date.
  - You can speak with your doctor or other hospital staff if you have concerns about being discharged.
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**Your Right to Appeal Your Hospital Discharge:**

- You have the right to an immediate, independent medical review (appeal) of the decision to discharge you from the hospital. If you do this, you will not have to pay for the services you receive during the appeal (except for charges like copays and deductibles).
- If you choose to appeal, the independent reviewer will ask for your opinion. The reviewer also will look at your medical records and/or other relevant information. You do not have to prepare anything in writing, but you have the right to do so if you wish.
- If you choose to appeal, you and the reviewer will each receive a copy of a detailed explanation about why your covered hospital stay should not continue. You will receive this detailed notice only after you request an appeal.
- If the QIO finds that you are not ready to be discharged from the hospital, Medicare will continue to cover your hospital services.
- If the QIO agrees services should no longer be covered after the discharge date, neither Medicare nor your Medicare health plan will pay for your hospital stay after noon of the day after the QIO notifies you of its decision. If you stop services no later than that time, you will avoid financial liability.
- If you do not appeal, you may have to pay for any services you receive after your discharge date.

**See page 2 of this notice for more information.**

## How to Ask For an Appeal of your Hospital Discharge

- You must make your request to the QIO listed above.
- Your request for an appeal should be made as soon as possible, but no later than your planned discharge date and before you leave the hospital.
- The QIO will notify you of its decision as soon as possible, generally no later than 1 day after it receives all necessary information.
- Call the QIO listed on Page 1 to appeal, or if you have questions.

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## If You Miss The Deadline to Request An Appeal, You May Have Other Appeal Rights:

- If you have Original Medicare: Call the QIO listed on Page 1.
- If you belong to a Medicare health plan: Call your plan.

**For more information, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), or TTY: 1-877-486-2048. CMS does not discriminate in its programs and activities. To request this publication in an alternate format, please call: 1-800-MEDICARE or email: [AltFormatRequest@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:AltFormatRequest@cms.hhs.gov) .**

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## Additional Information (Optional):

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Please sign below to indicate you received and understood this notice.

I have been notified of my rights as a hospital inpatient and that I may appeal my discharge by contacting my QIO.

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Signature of Patient or Representative

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Date / Time

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0938-1019. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. If you have comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this form, please write to: CMS, 7500 Security Boulevard, Attn: PRA Reports Clearance Officer, Mail Stop C4-26-05, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.