



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of Inspector General
Office of Audit Services

May 2, 2011

Region VII
561 East 12th Street
Room 1429
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

Report Number: A- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of our intention to conduct an audit of [REDACTED] Hospital. The objective of our audit is to determine whether [REDACTED] Hospital complied with Medicare regulations. The audit will cover inpatient and outpatient claims with dates of service during calendar years 2009 and 2010. We will review known areas of noncompliance that were identified during past Office of the Inspector General (OIG) reviews of hospitals.

OIG performs independent reviews of U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) programs pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978 (the Act), 5 U.S.C. App. § 4(a)(1). Section 6(a)(1) of the Act (5 U.S.C. App. § 6(a)(1)) authorizes OIG "... to have access to all records, reports, audits, reviews, documents, papers, recommendations, or other material available to HHS which relate to programs and operations with respect to which the Inspector General has responsibilities under this Act."

Under sections 1815(a) and 1833(e) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 1395g(a) and 42 U.S.C. § 13951(e) respectively), HHS may deny payment to any provider of services or other person unless there is furnished such information as may be necessary to determine the amounts due to any provider or other person.

Under the health information privacy regulation that implements the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, providing the information requested by this letter is a permitted disclosure because it (1) is "required by law" to be produced to OIG as part of your participation in a Government benefits program (45 CFR §§ 164.512(a) and 164.103) and (2) will be used for "health oversight" activities by OIG, which meets the definition of a "health oversight agency" (45 CFR §§ 164.512(d) and 164.501)).

To expedite completion of our work, we request that you have certain documents available at our entrance conference. Mr. [REDACTED] of my staff is developing the list of these documents and will communicate with you about it in the near future. During our review, we will also need access to additional documents and records. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter and will make every effort to minimize any disruption to the work of your office.

When transmitting any audit information to OIG over the Internet, please properly safeguard the information. We request that you use the HHS/OIG Delivery Server, not email or attachments to email. Information transmitted through the HHS/OIG Delivery Server complies with Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) 140-2, *Security Requirements for Cryptographic Module*. At the entrance conference, we will discuss authorizing your staff to use the HHS/OIG Delivery Server and give you instructions in its use.

We are required to report as a security breach any audit information sent to us that does not meet FIPS 140-2 requirements.

You will be contacted shortly by Mr. [REDACTED] of my staff to arrange an entrance conference.

If you have any questions or concerns about our review, please call Mr. [REDACTED], Senior Auditor, at ([REDACTED]) [REDACTED]-[REDACTED], or Mr. [REDACTED], Audit Manager, at ([REDACTED]) [REDACTED]-[REDACTED]. Please refer to report number A-[REDACTED]-[REDACTED] in all correspondence. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Regional Inspector General
for Audit Services