

### **Short-cycle Dispensing to Begin Jan. 1, 2013**

Short-cycle dispensing for brand name drugs begins Jan. 1, 2013 in long term care facilities. Initially scheduled to start in 2012, revisions were made after the comment period, and the dispensing cycle was revised to a 14-day cycle instead of seven days. This is intended to cut down on medication waste from both an economic and ecological standpoint.

The CMS [Final Rule](#) (pages 30-40, 143) implements provisions specified in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), including Section 3310, "Appropriate Dispensing of Prescription Drugs in Long-Term Care Facilities Under PDPs and MA-PD Plans," i.e. short cycle dispensing.

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