

March 24, 2020

Stephen G. Wohleb  
Texas Hospital Association  
1108 Lavaca Street  
Suite 700  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Mr. Wohleb:

On March 20, 2020, I responded to your request on behalf of all Medicare-participating hospitals in Texas for a variety of waivers under Section 1135 of the Social Security Act (Act) related to the COVID-19 Emergency. The purpose of this letter is to revoke the waiver granted in my March 20, 2020 letter with respect to sanctions under Section 1877(g) of the Act relating to the physician self-referral law (“PSL”).

CMS intends to issue PSL “blanket waivers” under Section 1135 of the Act, which would be effective nationwide as of March 1, 2020. Issuance of the waiver document is imminent, and the terms of the PSL blanket waivers will be posted here: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Fraud-and-Abuse/PhysicianSelfReferral/Spotlight>. Please direct any questions or concerns regarding the blanket waivers to the PSL call center at 1877CallCenter@cms.hhs.gov.

We trust that the new nationwide PSL blanket waivers will satisfy the needs of Texas hospitals. However, a hospital that wishes to request an individual waiver of section 1877(g) of the Act may do so by providing the call center the following information:

- Name and address of requesting entity
- Name, phone number and email address of person designated to represent the entity;
- CMS Certification Number (CCN) or Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) of the requesting entity; and
- Nature of request.

We look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Gerardo Ortiz  
Division Director, CMS – Dallas  
Survey & Operations Group (SOG)

cc: Jean Moody Williams, CCSQ  
Sandra Pace, CCSQ  
Martha Kuespert, DTPP