Stony Brook Medicine

CMS
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES
CENTER FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID INNOVATION

This letter is informational only. No action on your part is necessary.

Beneficiary Notification Letter

Your Team of Health Care Providers are Working Together to Give You the Best Care

This notification is from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to inform you that the hospital, STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL has been selected to participate in a mandatory program called the **"Transforming Episode Accountability Model" (TEAM)**. A CMS model is a trial program, and a way of testing how health care can be improved for people with Medicare and Medicaid. In this model, selected hospitals (referred to as "TEAM participants") will coordinate care for beneficiaries like you with original Medicare who are undergoing certain surgical procedures included in the model. TEAM participants are accountable for the cost and quality of care from surgery through the first 30 days after you leave the hospital.

TEAM participants can choose to work with health care entities, such as skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, doctors, and other healthcare workers or organizations who are also helping Medicare patients. These helpers are called “TEAM collaborators”. TEAM participants can set up financial arrangements to share extra money they get from Medicare with TEAM collaborators.

Medicare believes that when hospitals and other healthcare entities work together, patients get better care. This teamwork can also help save money, for example, by helping patients avoid going back to the hospital when it’s not needed.

You can find the list of healthcare entities working with STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL as TEAM collaborators here: N/A

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What do I need to know about TEAM?

TEAM aims to improve the patient's experience from surgery through recovery by supporting the coordination and transition of care between providers to reduce avoidable hospital readmissions.

The five surgical procedures in the model are:

- lower extremity joint replacement
- surgical hip femur fracture treatment
- spinal fusion
- coronary artery bypass graft
- major bowel procedures

You will have all the same Medicare benefits, rights, and protections.

Medicare will continue to cover all your medically necessary services. However, individual beneficiaries cannot opt out of the model when they receive hospital services from a TEAM participant, such as STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL As a Medicare beneficiary, you will keep your freedom of choice and may seek care with a different hospital that is not a TEAM participant.

Health care providers and suppliers who are enrolled in Medicare and are TEAM participants will submit their Medicare claims as they have always done. Even though Medicare may provide additional payments to a hospital that is a TEAM participant, **the amount you pay will not change**.

Information sharing helps coordinate your medical care.

Your medical records and Medicare claims data, such as the Medicare Beneficiary Identifier, date of birth, provider name, date of service, diagnosis, and procedure codes, may be shared with your health care team to provide you with better, safer, and more coordinated care. When all your doctors and clinicians in the hospital and/or clinics you visit can see the same test results, treatments, and prescriptions, they can work together to support your health goals. More coordination helps prevent medical errors and adverse drug interactions. You may save time, money, and frustration by avoiding repeated tests and appointments.

Medicare will always protect the privacy of your health information. Your information is kept private by law.

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL has an electronic health information system with a "Patient Portal" that provides you with easy online access to your medical records. The instructions for access are provided below:

MyHealtheLife Patient Portal

Access your health care conveniently with the **MyHealtheLife Patient Portal** at Stony Brook Medicine. This secure online platform allows you to view your health records, medical history, and communicate with your doctor.

Scan the QR code below for more information:

Enrollment varies by age:

13 - 17 years old

Adolescents complete a registration form, in person, and receive their own invitation. Parent Access is not available. More information is available at the QR code below.

**Tip: Ask for enrollment form and invitation while at Stony Brook*

18+ years old

Adults can self-enroll with the QR code below if their email address or phone number is in their chart, or by visiting **https://stonybrookmedicine.iqhealth.com/self-enroll/** and complete the form to confirm your information. Staff can also send an invitation.



You have a legal right to receive your personal health information. **Blue Button** is one way this information may be made available to you.

Blue Button refers to a feature on a patient portal or health care website that allows individuals to electronically access and download their personal health information, like medical records, medications, allergies, and lab results, in a standardized format, enabling them to easily view, share, and manage their health data with different providers or caregivers. The term signifies your ability to download your health information by clicking a **Blue Button** icon on the health care provider's website. When navigating the "Patient Portal," look for the **Blue Button** icon, and take action to gain access to your personal health information.

If you have concerns or complaints about your care, you can:

- Talk to your doctor or healthcare provider.
- Contact your local Quality Improvement Organization (QIO). The QIO program is dedicated to improving the quality of health for Medicare beneficiaries. To get your QIO's phone number, call 1-800-Medicare.
- **Call the 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)** helpline 24 hours a day.

Where can I learn more about TEAM?

Visit the TEAM web page to view the list of hospitals participating in the model (the TEAM participants), details about the model design, and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/team-model