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Bidder #: 20-9710679  
 CBA: Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, PA-NJ  
 Product Category: Oxygen Supplies and Equipment  
 PTAN(s): 745000002

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
 CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

Form Approved  
 OMB No. 0938-1016

## PUBLIC ADDRESS ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

## Penalties for Falsifying Information on this Enrollment Application

This section explains the penalties for deliberately furnishing false information to gain enrollment in the Medicare program.

1. 18 U.S.C. § 1001 authorizes criminal penalties against an individual who, in any matter within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of the United States, knowingly and willfully falsifies, conceals or covers up by any trick, scheme or device a material fact, or makes any false fictitious or fraudulent statements or representations, or makes any false writing or document knowing the same to contain any false, fictitious or fraudulent statement or entry.

Individual offenders are subject to fines of up to \$250,000 and imprisonment for up to five years. Offenders that are organizations are subject to fines of up to \$500,000 (18 U.S.C. § 3571). Section 3571(d) also authorizes fines of up to twice the gross gain derived by the offender if it is greater than the amount specifically authorized by the sentencing statute.

2. Section 1128B(a)(1) of the Social Security Act authorizes criminal penalties against any individual who, "knowingly and willfully," makes or causes to be made any false statement or representation of a material fact in any application for any benefit or payment under a Federal health care program. The offender is subject to fines of up to \$25,000 and/or imprisonment for up to five years.

3. The Civil False Claims Act, 31 U.S.C. § 3729, imposes civil liability, in part, on any person who:

a.) knowingly presents, or causes to be presented, to an officer or any employee of the United States

Government a false or fraudulent claim for payment or approval;

b.) knowingly makes, uses, or causes to be made or used, a false record or statement to get a false or fraudulent claim paid or approved by the Government; or

c.) conspires to defraud the Government by getting a false or fraudulent claim allowed or paid.

The Act imposes a civil penalty of \$5,000 to \$10,000 per violation, plus three times the amount of damages sustained by the Government.

4. Section 1128A(a)(1) of the Social Security Act imposes civil liability, in part, on any person (including an organization, agency or other entity) that knowingly presents or causes to be presented to an officer, employee, or agent of the United States, or of any department or agency thereof, or of any State agency... a claim... that the Secretary determines is for a medical or other item or service that the person knows or

should know:

a.) was not provided as claimed; and/or

b.) the claim is false or fraudulent.

This provision authorizes a civil monetary penalty of up to \$10,000 for each item or service, an assessment of up to three times the amount claimed, and exclusion from participation in the Medicare program and State health care programs.

5. The government may assert common law claims such as "common law fraud," "money paid by mistake," and "unjust enrichment."

Remedies include compensatory and punitive damages, restitution, and recovery of the amount of the unjust profit.

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