

Medicare Quality of Care Chemotherapy Demonstration Project

January, 2005

Dear Patient,

For the year 2005, Medicare has established a chemotherapy demonstration project. The purpose of the demonstration project is two-fold: 1) to improve the quality of services provided to Medicare patients, and 2) to capture data about the quality of life of oncology patients.

The focus of the demonstration project will be on three areas of concern often cited by cancer patients: pain control management, the minimization of nausea and vomiting, and the reduction of fatigue. Since the side effects of chemotherapy can be debilitating if not treated, Medicare wants to capture your perception of how much these three symptoms impact your quality of life.

When you come to our office to be treated with a chemotherapy drug, you will be asked to respond to questions about the degree to which you have been bothered by pain, nausea, and fatigue symptoms in the past week. Your answers to these questions will be personally reviewed by your physician.

The charge for the demonstration project is \$130. The usual coinsurance and deductible apply to this charge. The coinsurance amount is \$26. The demonstration project is applicable to services provided on or after January 1, 2005, and before January 1, 2006. Only Medicare beneficiaries who are not enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan are included in the demonstration.

If you have any questions about the demonstration project, please don't hesitate to ask. We are confident the results of the demonstration project will improve your quality of care now and in the future.

Sincerely,

Your medical staff at _____