

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop N2-04-27
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



CMS PRIVACY OFFICER

Dear Physician:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) administers the Medicare program. CMS is cooperating with the Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and the National Eye Institute, National Institutes of Health on a study which involves Medicare beneficiaries. The study is designed to determine what risk factors are important for developing endophthalmitis after cataract surgery. This is potentially a very important study from both a research and a public policy perspective. Nationwide, approximately 4000 patients and their physicians have been randomly selected to participate.

One of your patients has been selected for medical chart review. If you agree to participate in this study, you will be asked by the Wilmer Eye Institute to provide medical records pertaining to the cataract surgery of one of your patients and/or medical records pertaining to endophthalmitis following cataract surgery. You will also be asked to complete a brief questionnaire regarding the patient and your typical practice patterns. Your Medicare reimbursement will not be affected by whether or not you agree to participate. The data collected during this study will not be used for peer review monitoring purposes nor will it affect any payments for study participants, physicians, or facilities participating in this study.

CMS has taken great care to preserve the confidentiality of the Medicare claims data. The research team will be employing rigid control of the data file that links physician and patient names to the study forms. Neither you nor your patients will be identified in any reports, whether public or private.

If you have any questions about the study, please feel free to contact Dr. Emily Gower at 410-614-2874. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Walter Stone
CMS Privacy Officer