



Updated Medicare Outpatient Observation Notice (MOON)

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved an updated Medicare Outpatient Observation Notice (MOON) (CMS-10611) for a three-year period, with an expiration date of February 28, 2029. The revised MOON includes enhanced readability and design improvements to promote clearer beneficiary understanding, while no changes were made to MOON delivery requirements or timeframes. [\[cms.gov\]](https://www.cms.gov)

The updated MOON is **effective immediately**. Providers with existing inventory of the previous MOON may continue to use those forms through April 20, 2026. However, all providers must transition to the updated MOON no later than April 20, 2026.

Hospitals and Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) are required to deliver a MOON to Medicare beneficiaries, including Wellcare members who receive outpatient observation services. The notice informs beneficiaries that they are hospital outpatients receiving observation services and not admitted as inpatients of a hospital or CAH. The MOON must be provided in accordance with CMS requirements, including verbal explanation and required timeframes.

For detailed instructions regarding MOON completion, delivery, documentation, and retention requirements, providers should refer to [Section 400, Chapter 30 of the CMS Medicare Claims Processing Manual \(Pub. 100-04\)](#).

Thank you for your continued partnership in serving Wellcare members in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Wellcare