

the HMO or CMP) would mean risk of permanent damage to the enrollee's health.

Once initiated, the services continue to be considered emergency services as long as transfer of the enrollee to the HMO's or CMP's source of health care or authorized alternative is precluded because of risk to the enrollee's health or because transfer would be unreasonable, given the distance and the nature of the medical condition.

*Geographic area* means the area found by CMS to be the area within which the HMO or CMP furnishes, or arranges for furnishing, the full range of services that it offers to its Medicare enrollees.

*Medicare enrollee* means a Medicare beneficiary who has been identified on CMS records as an enrollee of an HMO or CMP that has a contract with CMS under section 1876 of the Act and subpart L of this part.

*New Medicare enrollee* means a Medicare beneficiary who—

(1) Enrolls with an HMO or CMP after the date on which the HMO or CMP first enters into a risk contract under subpart L of this part; and

(2) Was not enrolled with the HMO or CMP at the time he or she became entitled to benefits under Part A or eligible to enroll in Part B of Medicare.

*Risk contract* means a Medicare contract under which CMS pays the HMO or CMP on a risk basis for Medicare covered services.

*Risk HMO or CMP* means an HMO or CMP that has in effect a risk contract with CMS under section 1876 of the Act and subpart L of this part.

*Urgently needed services* means covered services that are needed by an enrollee who is temporarily absent from the HMO's or CMP's geographic area and that—

(1) Are required in order to prevent serious deterioration of the enrollee's health as a result of unforeseen injury or illness; and

(2) Cannot be delayed until the enrollee returns to the HMO's or CMP's geographic area.

[50 FR 1346, Jan. 10, 1985, as amended at 56 FR 51986, Oct. 17, 1991; 58 FR 38072, July 15, 1993; 60 FR 45675, Sept. 1, 1995]

#### § 417.402 Effective date of initial regulations.

(a) The changes made to section 1876 of the Act by section 114 of the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982 became effective on February 1, 1985, the effective date of the initial implementing regulations.

(b) The changes made to section 1876 of the Act by section 4002 of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (BBA) are incorporated in part 422 of this chapter, except for changes affecting section 1876 cost contracts, which are incorporated in subpart L of this part. Upon enactment of the BBA (August 5, 1998), no new cost contracts are accepted by CMS, except for current Health Care Prepayment Plans that may convert to section 1876 cost contracts. Section 1876 cost contracts may not be extended or renewed beyond December 31, 2004. CMS must accept and approve applications to modify the cost contracts in order to expand the service area, provided they are submitted on or before September 1, 2003 and CMS determines that the organization continues to meet the regulatory requirements and the requirements in its cost contract.

[63 FR 35066, June 26, 1998, as amended at 65 FR 40314, June 29, 2000; 67 FR 13288, Mar. 22, 2002]

#### § 417.404 General requirements.

(a) In order to contract with CMS under the Medicare program, an entity must—

(1) Be determined by CMS to be an HMO or CMP (in accordance with §§ 117.142 and 417.407, respectively); and

(2) Comply with the contract requirements set forth in subpart L of this part.

(b) CMS enters into or renews a contract only if it determines that action would be consistent with the effective and efficient implementation of section 1876 of the Act.

[60 FR 45675, Sept. 1, 1995]

#### § 417.406 Application and determination.

(a) *Responsibility for making determinations.* CMS is responsible for determining whether an entity meets the requirements to be an HMO or CMP.