

Medicare Outpatient Observation Notice

The Notice of Observation Treatment and Implication for Care Eligibility Act (NOTICE Act) requires hospitals to provide written and oral notice, within 36 hours, to patients who are in observation or other outpatient status for more than 24 hours.

The Medicare Outpatient Observation Notice (MOON) is a standardized CMS document that must be provided to a patient or a representative. It explains the reason the patient is receiving observation services, and must explain the implications of receiving outpatient observation services, such as cost sharing, and subsequent eligibility for coverage in a skilled nursing facility (SNF). An oral explanation of the MOON must be provided, ideally in conjunction with the delivery of the notice. A patient or representative must sign the MOON to acknowledge receipt. If he or she refuses to sign, hospital staff must document delivery of the MOON and the patient's refusal.

All hospitals and critical care access hospitals are required to provide the MOON beginning no later than March 8, 2017. For additional information or to download a copy of the MOON, visit [cms.gov](https://www.cms.gov), Regulations-and-Guidance, Legislation, PaperworkReductionActof1995, PRA-Listing and search for form CMS-10611.