



**Health Financial
Systems**

FY 2018 Proposed Rule MCR Electronic Signature Provision

Dear HFS Users -

On Friday, April 28th, 2017, CMS issued the Fiscal Year 2018 Inpatient Proposed Rule in the Federal Register. Included in the Proposed Rule is a provision for allowing providers to use an electronic signature to sign the Certification and Settlement Summary page of the Medicare cost report.

HFS has previously asked CMS to consider an electronic signature and see this change as a move towards more automation. HFS has developed our software and our website to accommodate an electronic signature. We believe that this change and our tools will make the process of submitting a cost report easier, more automated and with less room for error. The proposed changes still allow for the physical signature and mailing of the Certification page which we agree is a good fall back plan for those users who are not comfortable with the idea, if during the transition there are technical issues and for MCR preparers who do not use a vendor that chooses to develop an electronic signature capability. HFS's comments will be to implement this change as soon as possible.

We encourage clients to review and comment directly on the Proposed Rule and the Federal Register notice can be found at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-04-28/pdf/2017-07800.pdf>. The content on the proposed changes can be found starting on page 344 of the Federal Register notice.

If you have any concerns or would like to know details of our development plan, please feel free to contact us.

Thank you,
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