Date: September 17, 2012

To: Hospital Chief Financial Officers and
          Case Mix Liaisons

From: Claudine Williams, Associate Director of Policy Analysis

Re: Inclusion of a Master Patient Identifier to Case Mix Data Submission Requirements for FY2013

Background

A hospital system master patient identifier, also known as the enterprise identifier or EMPI, is a unique patient identification number that links a patient across system hospitals. Under the HSCRC's Admissions-Readmission Revenue (ARR) program, system hospitals may choose to "link" for purposes of defining 30-day readmission episodes. The EMPI is crucial for HSCRC staff use in defining episodes within these linked system hospitals. For FY 2012, HSCRC staff required linked system ARR hospitals to submit a list of all inpatient discharges with the system's EMPI, medical record number and admission and discharge dates. Each quarter, HSCRC staff merged these lists with the Inpatient Case Mix data.

Proposed Inclusion of the EMPI to the Case Mix Data Requirements

In an effort to reduce the number of data submissions to the HSCRC, as well as standardize EMPI reporting, staff is requiring linked ARR system hospitals to submit the EMPI for all inpatient discharges as part of the quarterly Inpatient Case Mix data submissions. Beginning with the FY 2013 Q1 preliminary data submission (due December 6, 2012), hospitals shall submit the EMPI in the following format:

> **Enterprise Master Patient Identifier.** Enter on this line the enterprise number of the patient (the hospital system identifier). This field is 11 characters in length, numeric only, right justified and padded with leading zeros.
> - HSCRC and our data vendor, St. Paul Group, have added the EMPI data field to **Record Type 4, at positions 215-225**

Submission of this field is required for ARR linked system hospitals. Submission of an EMPI is optional for all other hospitals. Hospitals not submitting an EMPI should leave this data element blank. If you have any questions, please contact Claudine Williams (claudine.williams@maryland.gov).