

Question of the Month July 2026

QUESTION: The CMS ABN R-131 form expired and I am not seeing a replacement. Do you have any insight into this?

RESPONSE: The Office of Management and Budget approved the updated [Advance Beneficiary Notice of Noncoverage](#) (Form CMS-R-131). It's available in English and Spanish. CMS improved the readability and design. You may use the updated form now, but you **must use it starting May 12, 2026**, when the previous version expires.

Keep in mind that providers must use the official form which is only in English or Spanish. If another language is required, verbal information may be provided and a note should be made in the "additional information" section. Patients should choose the appropriate option on the form and signed and date the form after the provider has completed the portion stating the item or procedure they think will not be covered and why along with the estimated cost to the patient. Providers are encouraged to review the information in the links below to ensure they are in compliance with the guidance when using an ABN.

Beneficiary Notices Initiative (BNI): <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/forms-notices/beneficiary-notices-initiative>

Fee-for-Service ABN: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/forms-notices/beneficiary-notices-initiative>

ABN Instructions: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/medicare-general-information/bni/downloads/abn-form-instructions.pdf>

Step-by-Step Instructions: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/forms-notices/beneficiary-notices-initiative/ffs-abn>

ABN Forms: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/medicare-general-information/bni/downloads/abn-forms-english-and-spanish-incl-large-print.zip>

CMS Manual 50.5 - ABN Standards: <https://www.cms.gov/regulations-and-guidance/guidance/manuals/downloads/clm104c30.pdf>

MLN ABN: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/mln006266-medicare-advance-written-notices-non-coverage.pdf>

CMS FFS ABN Instructions: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/forms-notices/beneficiary-notices-initiative/ffs-abn>

ABN Noncoverage Tutorial: <https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/ABN-Tutorial/formCMSR131tutorial111915f.html>