UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

AMERICAN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

Civil Action No. 14-cv-00851 (JEB)

XAVIER BECERRA, in his official capacity as Secretary of Health and Human Services,¹

Defendant.

DEFENDANT'S STATUS REPORT

Pursuant to the Court's 2018 Order (ECF No. 89), the Secretary of Health and Human Services ("HHS") provides this status report to inform the Court that HHS met the reduction target for the first quarter of FY 2021 and is on track to meet the subsequent reduction targets set forth in the Court's November 1, 2018 Order. Attached to this status report as Exhibit 1 are statistics concerning, *inter alia*, the backlog of appeals at the Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals ("OMHA") as of the end of the first quarter of FY 2021. *See* Medicare Appeals Dashboard, Exhibit 1. At the end of the first quarter of 2021, a total of 131,961 appeals remained pending at OMHA, which is a reduction of over 69% from the starting number of appeals identified in the Court's order (426,594 appeals).

Dated: March 26, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

BRIAN BOYNTON Acting Assistant Attorney General

¹ Xavier Becerra has been substituted as Defendant, in his official capacity as Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, by operation of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 25(d).

JEAN LIN Special Litigation Counsel Federal Programs Branch

<u>/s/ Justin M. Sandberg</u> JUSTIN M. SANDBERG IL Bar No. 6278377 Senior Trial Counsel U.S. Department of Justice Civil Division, Federal Programs Branch 1100 L Street, NW Washington, DC 20005 Telephone: (202) 514-5838 Facsimile: (202) 616-8202 justin.sandberg@usdoj.gov *Counsel for Defendant*

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