

MLN Matters Number: MM4284

Related Change Request (CR) #: 4284

Related CR Release Date: February 10, 2006

Effective Date: January 1, 2006

Related CR Transmittal #: R850CP

Implementation Date: March 13, 2006

## Change Payment Floor Date for Paper Claims

**Note:** This article was revised to contain web addresses that conform to the new CMS web site and to show they are now MLN Matters articles. All other information remains the same.

### Provider Types Affected

Physicians, providers, and suppliers who use paper claims to bill Medicare carriers, including durable medical equipment regional carriers (DMERCs), and fiscal intermediaries (FIs), including regional home health intermediaries (RHHIs)

### Important Points to Remember

- CR4284 changes the payment floor date for paper claims from the 27<sup>th</sup> day to the 29<sup>th</sup> day after receipt of a claim.
- Effective January 1, 2006, Medicare carriers, DMERCs, FIs, and RHHIs will not pay paper claims prior to the 29<sup>th</sup> day after receipt of the claim.

### Background

The Social Security Act Section 1816b (c) (3) (B) (ii) and Section 1842 (c) (3) (B) (ii) provides for payment waiting periods for Medicare claims before a claim is paid by the Medicare contractor. Congress has amended the Social Security Act to extend the waiting period for paper claims from 27 to 29 days, effective January 1, 2006.

### Implementation

The implementation date for this instruction is March 13, 2006.

#### Disclaimer

This article was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This article may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents.

## Additional Information

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The official instructions issued to your carrier regarding this change can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R850CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have questions, please contact your Medicare carrier, DMERC, FI, or RHHI at their toll-free number which may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website.

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