



**News Flash** - Test Your Medicare Claims Now! After you have submitted claims containing both National Provider Identifiers (NPIs) and legacy identifiers and those claims have been paid, Medicare urges you to send a small batch of claims now with only the NPI in the primary provider fields. If the results are positive, begin increasing the number of claims in the batch. (Reminder: For institutional claims, the primary provider fields are the Billing and Pay-to Provider fields. For professional claims, the primary provider fields are the Billing, Pay-to, and Rendering Provider fields. If the Pay-to Provider is the same as the Billing Provider, the Pay-to Provider does not need to be identified.)

MLN Matters Number: MM5770

Related Change Request (CR) #: 5770

Related CR Release Date: December 19, 2007

Effective Date: January 7, 2008

Related CR Transmittal #: R1399CP

Implementation Date: January 7, 2008

## Handling Personally Identifiable Information (PII) on the Medicare Summary Notice (MSN)

### Provider Types Affected

Physicians, providers, and suppliers who submit claims to Medicare Carriers, Fiscal Intermediaries, (FIs), Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs), and Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractors (DME MACs)

### What You Need to Know

When the Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN) and name of the beneficiary do not match on the submitted claim, Medicare carriers, intermediaries, and A/B MACs will return the claim to the provider as unprocessable. When non-institutional providers submit claims to Medicare carriers or A/B MACs that do not result in a match on name and HICN, the claim is returned with reason code 140 (Patient/Insured health identification number and name do not match).

In addition, effective January 7, 2008, on ALL MSNs, the first 5 digits of the HICN will be replaced with "XXX-XX" to avoid displaying the Medicare beneficiary's personally identifiable information (PII). This applies to pay, no-pay, and duplicate copies of the MSN.

#### 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.

## Background

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This article is based on CR5770, which describes new procedures resulting from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) implementation of the Privacy Act and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). CR 5770 ensures that (1) MSNs are not issued when the HICN and name do not match, and (2) beneficiaries' PII is protected on the MSN.

## Additional Information

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You may see the official instruction, CR5770, issued to your Medicare Carrier, FI, A/B MAC or DME MAC at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1399CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

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

***News Flash*** - It's seasonal flu time again! If you have Medicare patients who haven't yet received their flu shot, you can help them reduce their risk of contracting the seasonal flu and potential complications by recommending an annual influenza and a one-time pneumococcal vaccination. Medicare provides coverage for flu and pneumococcal vaccines and their administration. – And don't forget to immunize yourself and your staff. Protect yourself, your patients, and your family and friends. Get Your Flu Shot – Not the Flu! Remember - Influenza vaccination is a covered Part B benefit but the influenza vaccine is NOT a Part D covered drug. Health care professionals and their staff can learn more about Medicare's coverage of adult immunizations and related provider education resources, by reviewing Special Edition *MLN Matters* article SE0748 at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0748.pdf> on the CMS website.

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