



News Flash - Physicians and non-physician practitioners in 44 States and Washington, D.C. can now use the Internet-based Provider Enrollment, Chain and Ownership System (PECOS) to enroll, make a change in their Medicare enrollment, view their Medicare enrollment information on file with Medicare, or check on the status of a Medicare enrollment application via the Internet. CMS expects to expand the availability of Internet-based PECOS for physicians and non-physician practitioners located in California, Texas, Virginia, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Colorado, and Puerto Rico by end of January 2009. In addition, CMS will make Internet-based PECOS available next year to organizational providers and suppliers (except durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS) suppliers). For information about Internet-based PECOS, including important information that physicians and non-physician practitioners should know before submitting a Medicare enrollment application via Internet-based PECOS, go to <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/> on the CMS website.

MLN Matters Number: MM6295

Related Change Request (CR) #: 6295

Related CR Release Date: January 30, 2009

Effective Date: May 4, 2009

Related CR Transmittal #: R1676CP

Implementation Date: May 4, 2009

Change in the Amount in Controversy Requirement for Administrative Law Judge Hearings and Federal District Court Appeals

Provider Types Affected

Physicians, providers and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare Carriers, Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractors (DME MACs), Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs), Part A/B MACs (A/B MACs), and/or Regional Home Health Intermediaries (RHHIs) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries

Provider Action Needed

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 6295, which notifies Medicare contractors of the Amount in Controversy (AIC) required to sustain Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) and Federal District Court appeal rights beginning January 1, 2009.

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.

The amount remaining in controversy requirement for **ALJ hearing requests** made before January 1, 2009, is \$120. The amount remaining in controversy requirement for requests made on or after January 1, 2009, is \$120.

For **Federal District Court** review, the amount remaining in controversy goes from \$1,180 for requests **on or after January 1, 2008**, to \$1,220 for requests **on or after January 1, 2009**.

Background

The Medicare claims appeal process was amended by the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Benefits Improvement and Protection Act of 2000 (BIPA). CR 6295 modifies the *Medicare Claims Processing Manual* (Publication 100-4, Chapter 29, Section 330.1 and Section 345.1) to update the AIC required for an ALJ hearing or judicial court review.

Additional Information

The official instruction (CR6295) issued to your Medicare Carrier, A/B MAC, DME MAC, FI, and/or RHHI is available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1676CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have questions, please contact your Medicare contractor 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 Not Too Late to Give and Get the Flu Shot! In the United States, the peak of flu season typically occurs anywhere from late December through March; however, flu season can last as late as May. Each office visit presents an opportunity for you to talk with your patients about the importance of getting an annual flu shot and a one time pneumococcal vaccination. Protect yourself, your patients, and your family and friends by getting and giving the flu shot. **Don't Get the Flu. Don't Give the Flu.** Remember - Influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations plus their administration are covered Part B benefits. Note that influenza and pneumococcal vaccines are NOT Part D covered drugs. Health care professionals and their staff can learn more about Medicare's Part B coverage of adult immunizations and related provider education resources, by reviewing Special Edition *MLN Matters* article SE0838 <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0838.pdf> on the CMS website.

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