

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is HIGLAS?

The Healthcare Integrated General Ledger Accounting System (HIGLAS) is an integrated, dual-entry accounting system that replaces Medicare Contractor's accounting systems with a single standard system.

Why implement HIGLAS?

HIGLAS strengthens the management of Medicare accounts receivables and allows CMS to collect outstanding debts more timely.

When will HIGLAS be fully implemented?

HIGLAS will be fully operational in 2011.

How will HIGLAS impact Medicare Contractors?

HIGLAS is a uniform, integrated, dual-accounting system that will use the existing Medicare Contractor Data Centers and systems to process claims. Once a claim has been adjudicated, HIGLAS, not the standard system, will perform the payment calculation, formatting, and accounting that is performed today. HIGLAS will replace the benefit accounting processes used by the Medicare Contractors, not the claims processing activities.

Which Medicare Contracts have transitioned to HIGLAS?

Palmetto A, Empire A and B, First Coast A, Trailblazer A, and Mutual of Omaha A have already transitioned to HIGLAS.

How long does it take to transition a new Medicare Contractor to HIGLAS?

It will take anywhere from 6-9 months depending on the complexity of the Medicare Contractor.