

PECOS to Change Medicare Payments in January 2011

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As our world has become more automated and electronic, so have many government processes in an effort to cut costs and improve efficiency. Medicare has pushed many aspects of the electronic data era, and the Medicare Provider Enrollment, Chain and Ownership System (PECOS) is a mandatory process that will affect nearly all health care providers in 2011. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) sent letters this summer informing providers and suppliers of the change and what needs to be done, but PECOS compliance is more important than some others since noncompliance will result in denied claims.



What is PECOS?

Medicare Provider Enrollment, Chain and Ownership System (PECOS) is a new enrollment system for Medicare providers and suppliers. Medicare established PECOS to create a more tailored application process while decreasing processing time compared to paper enrollment. With PECOS, providers will have more control over their enrollment information and will be able to easily check and update their information for accuracy. As a result of implementation, providers and suppliers **must** be registered through PECOS by **January 3, 2011** in order to receive payments for Medicare patients treated from that point forward.

Recommendations

We recommend that all health care practices enroll their providers in PECOS as soon as possible through either the Medicare enrollment application (paper CMS-855I) or the Internet-based PECOS. Paper applications take about 60 days while internet-based PECOS takes about 45 days to process.

- If a provider has already been enrolled in Medicare, but enrollment took place more than six years ago, the provider will have to enroll again in PECOS
- If a provider has been enrolled in Medicare within the last six years, PECOS will take care of making sure that provider is set up in PECOS. If you are unsure if a provider is currently in PECOS, we recommend submitting a new application. If they are in PECOS, CMS will return the application stating that they are already enrolled.

How do I enroll?

Paper Medicare Enrollment Application (CMS-885I)

- Go to the CMS website [Form 855I](#), print and complete the form.
- If a provider reassigns benefits to a clinic or group practice, also complete [Form 855R](#).
- The carrier or A/B MAC (Medicare Administrative Contractors for Medicare Parts A & B) will begin to process your application upon receipt & will contact you for additional information.

Internet-based PECOS

- To get the enrollment process started for your providers, you will need their NPI (National Provider Identifier) and you will need to create a User ID and password in the NPPES (National Plan and Provider Enumeration System) to access Internet-based PECOS. Contact the NPI Enumerator for assistance at 1-800-465-3203 if needed.
- Once you are signed in, review the documents that are available about Internet-based PECOS on the CMS website at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicareProviderSupEnroll>
- After you have completed and submitted your enrollment application through Internet-based PECOS, make sure to print your Certification Statement, sign and date it, and mail it along with any required supporting documentation to the carrier or A/B MAC whose name and mailing address will be displayed by the system.

We recommend not delaying your Medicare enrollment record with PECOS. They are currently experiencing heavy traffic due to everyone trying to get their applications processed before January 3, 2011. CMS has not talked about extending the deadline, and though an extension is possible, we recommend enrolling in PECOS as soon as possible.

For more information on Internet-based PECOS please visit:

www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicareProviderSupEnroll

www.komisarbrady.com