

# Medicare Enrollment For Physicians & Non-Physicians

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**MEDICAL PRACTICE  
CONSULTANTS, INC.**

## INFORMATION ABOUT ENROLLING IN THE MEDICARE PROGRAM

Physicians, non-physician practitioners, and other health care suppliers must enroll in the Medicare program to be eligible to receive Medicare payment for covered services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

The Medicare enrollment application is used to collect information about you and to secure the necessary documentation to ensure you are qualified and eligible to enroll in the Medicare program. Suppliers, other than suppliers of Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS), use three different enrollment application forms to enroll or change their Medicare enrollment information. They are:

- ◇ Medicare Enrollment Application for Physicians and Non-Physician Practitioners (Form CMS-855I)—This application is used by individual physicians or non-physician practitioners to initiate the Medicare enrollment process or to change their Medicare enrollment information.
- ◇ Medicare Enrollment Application for Clinics/Group Practices and Certain Other Suppliers (Form CMS-855B)—This application is used by group practices or other organizational suppliers, except DMEPOS suppliers, to initiate the Medicare enrollment process or to change their Medicare enrollment information.
- ◇ Medicare Enrollment Application for Reassignment of Medicare Benefits (Form CMS-855R) - This application is used to initiate a reassignment of a right to bill the Medicare program and receive Medicare payments (Note: only individual physicians and non-physician practitioners can reassign the right to bill the Medicare program).

## HOW TO ENROLL

Physicians and non-physician practitioners can apply for enrollment in the Medicare program or make a change in their enrollment information using either:

- ◇ The Internet-based Provider Enrollment, Chain and Ownership System (PECOS), or
- ◇ The paper enrollment application process (e.g., CMS-855).

For additional information regarding the Medicare enrollment process, including Internet-based PECOS, go to: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicareProviderSupEnroll>.

## HOW TO REPORT CHANGES

Physicians and non-physician practitioners can submit a change of information using Internet-based PECOS or the same application used to initiate the Medicare enrollment process. Physicians, non-physician practitioners, physician and non-physician practitioner organizations, and Independent Diagnostic Testing Facilities must report a change of ownership or control, change in practice location, or final adverse action within 30 days of the reportable event. All other changes must be submitted within 90 days of the reportable event.

All other healthcare suppliers must report a change of ownership or control within 30 days of the reportable event. All other changes must be submitted within 90 days of the reportable event.

## WHAT IS PARTICIPATION

In Medicare, "participation" means you agree to always accept assignment of claims for all services you furnish to Medicare beneficiaries. By agreeing to always accept assignment, you agree to always accept Medicare-allowed amounts as payment in full and to not collect more than the Medicare de-

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Who, being loved, is poor? ~Oscar Wilde

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ductible and coinsurance from the beneficiary. Unlike many private insurance plans, the Social Security Act requires you to submit claims for Medicare beneficiaries whether you participate or not.

### **BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION**

If you decide to participate in the Medicare program as a participating supplier, submit a participation agreement, using the "Medicare Participating Physician or Supplier Agreement," (Form CMS-460).

It should be submitted simultaneously with the Medicare enrollment form. Although you have up to 90 days to submit the agreement, your physician benefits will not start until the agreement is submitted. There is a CMS annual enrollment period, which is generally conducted in November. The benefits of Medicare participation include:

- ◇ Medicare reimbursement is 5 percent higher than it is for those who do not participate.
- ◇ Medicare payments are issued directly to the physician/supplier because the claims are always assigned.
- ◇ Claim information is forwarded to Medigap (Medicare supplemental coverage) insurers.

### **ENROLLMENT AND ENUMERATION**

The National Provider Identifier (NPI) will replace health care provider identifiers in use today in standard health care transactions. Suppliers must obtain their NPI prior to enrolling in the Medicare program. Enrolling in Medicare authorizes you to bill and be paid for services furnished to Medicare beneficiaries.

You may apply for an NPI at <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov> or by calling the Enumerator at 1-800-465-3203 or TTY 1-800-692-2326.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

When you are ready to enroll or make changes to your enrollment information, visit the CMS provider enrollment web site at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicareProviderSupEnroll> to access Internet-based PECOS. In addition, you can download a paper-based Medicare enrollment application, find responses to commonly asked questions, or find telephone and mailing address information for the fee-for-service contractor serving your area.

### **Physicians and Provider/Supplier Types listed below are eligible for enrollment in Medicare:**

- Anesthesiology Assistant
- Audiologist
- Certified Nurse Midwife
- Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist
- Clinical Nurse Specialist
- Clinical Social Worker
- Nurse Practitioner
- Occupational Therapist in Private Practice
- Physical Therapist in Private Practice
- Physician Assistant
- Psychologist, Clinical
- Psychologist billing independently
- Registered Dietitian or Nutrition Professional

### **Suppliers, other than Durable Medical Equipment Prosthetics, Orthotics and Supplier (DMEPOS), include:**

- Ambulance Service Supplier
- Ambulatory Surgical Center
- Clinics/Group Practices
  - ⇒ *Hospital Departments*
  - ⇒ *Multi-Specialty Clinic*
  - ⇒ *Physical/Occupational Therapy Group in Private Practice*
  - ⇒ *Public Health/Welfare Agency*
  - ⇒ *Single Specialty Clinic*
- Competitive Acquisition Program (CAP) Part B Drug Vendor
- Independent Clinical Laboratory
- Independent Diagnostic Testing Facility
- Mammography Center
- Portable X-ray Facility
- Radiation Therapy Center
- Slide Preparation Facility
- Voluntary Health/Charitable Agency

**In the coldest February, as in every other month in every other year, the best thing to hold on to in this world is each other.**

*~Linda Ellerbee, Move On. Adventures in the Real World*