



# MEDICAL PRACTICE CONSULTANTS, INC.

## Medicare Contractor Change

On November 8, 2011, CMS awarded the Jurisdiction H (JH) MAC contract to Highmark Medicare Services (HMS). The JH MAC contract covers Medicare Part A and Part B claims processing services in the states of Arkansas, Colorado, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas which includes all Indian Health Service/Tribal/Urban Indian and Veteran Affairs providers currently served by the J4 MAC. As of January 2012, Highmark Medicare Services has assumed the new corporate name of Novitas Solutions, Inc. (Novitas).

### The CMS contractors have addressed several issues related to the transition.

#### JH – Related Questions

1. How will Novitas communicate all updates regarding the transition?
  - ◇ Response: Novitas will disseminate information about the JH implementation in a variety of ways:
    - Dedicated JH Transition website at <https://www.novitas-solutions.com/transition/jh/index.html> - They encourage you to bookmark this page for easy reference during the transition.
    - Listserv messages - They encourage providers to join their mailing list issuing listserv updates.
    - General and EDI-specific newsletters
    - Educational events
    - Podcasts
2. When should we stop sending claims to our current contractor?
  - ◇ Response: You should direct claims to your current contractor until one day prior to the cutover date. The list of cutover dates is available on their web site at: <https://www.novitas-solutions.com/transition/jh/news/033012.html>

#### EDI-Related Issues Questions

1. Will Novitas assign a new EDI submitter/receiver and login ID?
  - ◇ Response: Novitas will not assign new EDI submitter/receiver IDs. A new login ID will be assigned to your existing EDI submitter/receiver ID for telecommunications access. The new login ID, along with a customer-controlled password, will be required to connect to your new EDI mailbox on the Novitas EDI Front-End Platform.
2. Will Novitas send these IDs and passwords to providers in hardcopy or electronically?
  - ◇ Response: Novitas will send a hardcopy letter to the submitter containing their current EDI submitter/receiver ID and their new Novitas login ID information.
3. If I use a third-party vendor or clearinghouse that utilizes a login, when the new logins are issued by Novitas, to whom will they be sent?
  - ◇ Response: The new login ID will be issued to the party that actually submits and manages claim billing. If you employ a billing service or clearinghouse to perform this function, that entity will receive this information. The new login ID, along with a customer-controlled password, will be required to connect to your new EDI mailbox on the Novitas EDI Front-End Platform.
4. Will testing be required for EDI?
  - ◇ Response: Novitas will offer connectivity testing to all JH EDI trading partners in advance of production submission. Testing is encouraged to ensure a smooth transition to the Novitas EDI telecommunications gateway.
5. Will I need new DDE and PPTN Access?
  - ◇ Response: Novitas will reach out to all approved third-party vendors on Direct Data Entry (DDE) and Professional Provider Telecommunication Network (PPTN) connections. You will maintain your current RACF ID and clerk ID for these accesses, and you will not be required to re-enroll.
6. What EDI transactions are supported, and what are the methods of file submission and retrieval?
  - ◇ Response: Novitas supports asynchronous dial-up and secure file transfer protocol communication methodologies to the Novitas version 5010 gateway. All X12N 5010 transactions are supported, including institutional/professional claims submission, Electronic Remittance Advice (ERA) retrieval, and claim status inquiry transactions. Novitas supports the CMS-



**MEDICAL PRACTICE CONSULTANTS, INC.**  
**Renee M. Brown, CEO, CMIS, ACS-EM, CHA**  
 50 Penn Place  
 1900 NW Expressway, Suite 625  
 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118  
 (405/848-8558)

### A MEMBER FIRM OF: Physicians Viewpoint Network

*This newsletter is published for our clients and other interested parties. There is no warranty or guarantee that this compilation is error free. Since this information may be of a generalized nature, no final decisions should be made on this information without first seeking professional advice for your specific circumstances.*

- approved PC-ACE Pro32 software for Part A and Part B EDI claims submission and ERA viewing/printing. Medicare Remit Easy Print (MREP) (Part B) and PC Print (Part A) are also offered and supported for ERA viewing/printing.
7. If I currently use a Network Service Vendor (NSV) to connect to my current MAC/contractor, will I need to contract with a new NSV that supports JH customers?
    - ◇ Response: Novitas will work with your current NSV to ensure connections are established to the Novitas version 5010 EDI gateway to support Secure File Transfer Protocol (SFTP).
  8. How will EDI communicate with the electronic billing community?
    - ◇ Response: Novitas will utilize several methods of EDI provider communications, including an early boarding announcement letter, an EDI submitter ID/mailbox announcement letter, the EDI section on the JH Transition web site, EDI JH Transition Newsletters, JH Transition Podcasts, and listserv e-mail announcements.
  9. Will we need to apply for new RACF IDs to access the Fiscal Intermediary Standard System (FISS) when we transition to Novitas?
    - ◇ Response: No, Novitas will transition existing, active RACF IDs to the FISS JH region as part of the transition. Additional information regarding Direct Data Entry (DDE) will be available in upcoming transition newsletters.

**Provider Enrollment**

1. Will all enrollment applications currently in-process at the time of transition be sent to Novitas?
  - ◇ Response: Yes, all enrollment applications in process, but not yet completed, will be transitioned to Novitas.
2. Will there be a way to verify Novitas received a pending enrollment application from the current (outgoing) contractor?
  - ◇ Response: Yes. The status of all pending enrollment workload received from the outgoing contractor will be available on their Provider Enrollment Status Inquiry Tool at <https://www.novitas-solutions.com/enrollment/status.html>. Further details on how to check the status of pending enrollment applications will be issued in the near future.
3. Will I need to file a new CMS-855 Enrollment Application with Novitas when they become the JH MAC?
  - ◇ Response: No. Providers/suppliers will not be required to complete a new CMS-855 Enrollment Application due to the transition to the JH MAC. After transition, Novitas will have access to all provider enrollment data previously captured and maintained by the outgoing contractor.
4. Will I be required to complete a new CMS-588 EFT Authorization Agreement due to the transition to Novitas?
  - ◇ Response: Providers who are currently receiving their Medicare payments electronically from their current contractor must now submit a new CMS-588 Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Authorization Agreement (05/10 version) to Novitas.

To ensure continued receipt of your electronic payments, it is imperative that you complete a CMS-588 EFT Authorization Agreement (05/10 version) and return it to Novitas no later than 30 days from the date of the EFT Agreement Request Letter. Failure to complete and submit a CMS-588 EFT Authorization Agreement may result in a delay or interruption of your Medicare payments post-transition.

If you have already completed and submitted the 05/10 version of the CMS 588-EFT Authorization Agreement to your current contractor, you are permitted to submit a copy of that form and will not be required to complete and submit a new one to Novitas. If you have not completed the 05/10 version of the CMS-588 EFT Authorization Agreement, or you did not maintain a copy of that 05/10 version of the Agreement, you will be required to submit a new form to Novitas.

5. Will Novitas issue new PTAN/CCN numbers when they become the JH MAC contractor?
  - ◇ Response: No. Novitas will not be issuing new CMS Certification Numbers (CCN) for Part A providers or new Provider Transaction Access Numbers (PTAN) for Part B suppliers as a result of the JH MAC transition. You will continue to use your existing CCN/PTAN for the Interactive Voice Response Unit (IVR) as you do today. In addition, your current National Provider Identifier (NPI) will continue to be valid for claim submissions to Novitas post-transition.
6. When should we stop sending enrollment applications to our current contractor?
  - ◇ Response: Continue sending enrollment applications to your current contractor until otherwise notified.
7. How will this transition affect the revalidation process?
  - ◇ Response: All pending revalidation applications will be transferred from the outgoing contractor to Novitas at the time of transition. All future revalidation mailings will be facilitated by Novitas.

**Policy**

1. Will Novitas utilize the LCDs from my current contractor for claims after the cutover date?
  - ◇ Response: In accordance with the JH MAC requirements, Novitas has been tasked with choosing the most clinically appropriate LCD and applying it across the JH region. The Contractor Medical Directors (CMDs) from Novitas are currently in the process of reviewing the existing LCDs used by the current contractors. After approval from CMS, new JH LCDs will be posted to the Novitas web site and the Medicare Coverage Database on June 28, 2012 for a minimum 45 day notice period before becoming effective. The LCDs will become effective for each jurisdiction for service dates on and after the implementation dates as follows:

States	Work-load Segment	Contract	Date
Arkansas, Louisiana	I	Part B	08/13/2012
Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi	II	Part A	08/20/2012
Mississippi	III	Part B	10/22/2012
Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas	IV	Part A	10/29/2012
Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas	V	Part B	11/19/2012

2. Will the LCDs be the same for both Part A and Part B?
  - ◇ Response: The JH LCDs will be the same for Part A and Part B, to the extent possible.
3. Will there be associated billing and coding articles with the LCDs?
  - ◇ Response: Yes, JH LCDs will have associated billing and coding articles, where appropriate.