



FAQs about Medicare enrollment

Q: What do the new Medicare enrollment rules require?

A: Effective Jan. 3, 2011, all physicians and non-physician practitioners who are eligible to order items or services or refer Medicare beneficiaries to other Medicare providers or suppliers MUST have current enrollment records in Medicare. For an enrollment record to be considered current, the physician must:

- A. Be registered in PECOS (Medicare's Internet-based Provider Enrollment, Chain and Ownership System) AND
- B. His/her record must contain the physician's National Provider Identifier (NPI).

Q: I have been enrolled in Medicare for years. Do I need to do anything?

A: It depends. According to Trailblazer, there are many physicians who have been enrolled in Medicare for years but do not have an enrollment record in PECOS.

If you are not enrolled in the Medicare program, or if you enrolled more than 6 years ago and have not submitted any updates or changes to your enrollment information in more than 6 years, you do not have a current enrollment record in PECOS.

Q: How do I know if I have an enrollment record in PECOS?

Colorado physicians can find out if you have an enrollment record in PECOS by calling Trailblazer at (866)-539-5596 or by going online to the CMS Ordering/Referring file.

The Ordering/Referring file contains the NPI and the name (last name, first name) of all physicians and non-physician practitioners who are eligible to order/refer in the Medicare program and who have current enrollment records in Medicare. Providers can access this file on the CMS Ordering Referring Report Web page by clicking Ordering/Referring File under Downloads. Or, click on or copy and paste the link below:

www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/06_MedicareOrderingandReferring.asp#TopOfPage

Q: I do not have a current enrollment record. What do I do now?

A: In order to continue to order or refer items or services for Medicare beneficiaries, you will have to submit an initial enrollment application. You may do so either by either:

- A. Using Internet-based PECOS (which transmits your enrollment application to Trailblazer via the Internet—be sure to mail the signed and dated Certification Statement to Trailblazer immediately after submitting the application), or
- B. Filling out the appropriate paper Medicare provider enrollment application(s) (CMS-855I and CMS-855R, if appropriate) and mailing the application, along with any required additional supplemental documentation, to Trailblazer, who will enter your information into PECOS and process your enrollment application.

Note: The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will populate PECOS with NPIs for physicians who are enrolled in PECOS but missing their NPI.

Q: What happens if I don't complete the necessary application information by Jan. 3, 2011?

After Jan. 3, 2011, a physician or non-physician practitioner who orders or refers and who does not have a current enrollment record in PECOS that contains the NPI will cause the claim submitted by the Part B provider/supplier who furnished the ordered or referred item or service to be rejected.

Helpful Links:

Overview of Medicare Enrollment

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/>

Individual Physician Reporting Responsibilities Fact Sheet

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/Downloads/PhysicianReportingResponsibilities.pdf>

Provider Enrollment Application Tips

www.trailblazerhealth.com/Publications/Job%20Aid/ProviderEnrollment855ApplicationTips.pdf

Information about how to log on to PECOS:

<https://pecos.cms.hhs.gov/pecos/login.do>