



Related MLN Matters Article #: MM5047

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Related CR #: 5047

Full Replacement of CR4349, Hold on Medicare Payments. CR4349 Is Rescinded

Key Words

MM 5047, CR5047, CR4349, Replacement, Payments

Provider Types Affected

Providers and physicians who bill Medicare contractors (Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs), including Regional Home Health Intermediaries (RHHIs), and Carriers) for their services

Key Points

- The effective date of the instruction is September 22, 2006.
- The implementation date is July 3, 2006.
- A brief hold will be placed on Medicare payments for all claims (e.g., initial claims, adjustment claims, and Medicare Secondary Payer (MSP) claims) for the last 9 days of the federal fiscal year, i.e., September 22, 2006 to September 30, 2006.
- No payments on claims will be made September 22-30, 2006.
- These payment delays are mandated by section 5203 of the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) of 2006.
- Accelerated payments using normal procedures will be considered.
- No interest will be accrued or paid, and no late penalty will be paid to an entity or individual for any delay in a payment by reason of this one-time hold on payments.
- All claims held as a result of this one-time policy that would have otherwise been paid on one of these 9 days will be paid on October 2, 2006.
- **This policy applies only to claims subject to payment.**
 - It does not apply to full denials and no-pay claims.
 - It does not apply to periodic interim payments, home health request for anticipated payments, cost reports settlements, and other non-claim payments.

- Medicare contractors will continue to apply the 14-day electronic claim payment floor and the 29-day paper claim payment floor.
- On a case-by-case basis, Medicare FIs, RHHIs, or carriers, may make adjustments after October 1, 2006, for extenuating circumstances raised by a provider.
- Providers should note that:
 - Payments will not be staggered, and
 - No advance payments during the 9-day hold will be allowed.

Important Links

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5047.pdf>

CR5047 is the official instruction issued to FIs, RHHIs, and carriers regarding changes mentioned in this article. CR5047 may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R944CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

Providers should refer to their local FI/RHHI or carrier if they have questions about this issue. Their toll free phone number may be found at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website.