



## Initial Enrollment Assignment for Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Facilities, and Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) – JA6207

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Implementation Date: April 27, 2009

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**Key Words** MM6207, CR6207, R1707CP, FQHC, ESRD, RHC, Enrollment

**Contractors Affected**

- Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs)
- Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs)

**Provider Types Affected** FQHCs, ESRD facilities, and RHCs that are currently enrolled with a FI or an A/B MAC, and FQHCs, RHCs, and ESRD facilities that are planning to submit an 855 initial enrollment application



- Change Request (CR) 6207 describes initial enrollment policy for assignment of FQHCs, ESRD facilities, and RHCs.
- FQHCs, ESRD facilities, and RHCs seeking to enroll in the Medicare program, should file their enrollment applications with the legacy FI or MAC that covers the state where they are located.

- In the legacy FI environment, FQHCs, RHCs, and ESRD facilities were concentrated within the workloads of several regional and national FIs.
- Most of the providers that were assigned to regional or national FIs represent “out-of-jurisdiction providers” (OJPs). An OJP is defined as a provider that is not currently serviced by the FI or MAC that covers the state where the provider is located. Regional and national Medicare contractors for FQHCs, RHCs, and ESRD facilities will not exist in the MAC environment.

### FQHCs

- Most FQHCs are currently within the workload serviced by National Government Services (NGS) Wisconsin. The Jurisdiction 6 MAC will absorb this workload.
- The destination MAC will not always be the geographic MAC.
- Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities will be assigned to the Jurisdiction 4 MAC.
- For purposes of CR6207, “tribal FQHC” means a Medicare FQHC operated by a tribe or tribal organization under the Indian Self-Determination Act (25 USCS 40(b)) or by an Urban Indian organization receiving funds under Title V of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 USCS 13).
- All other freestanding FQHCs that do not meet that tribal description will be assigned to the MAC that covers the state where the facility is located.
- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is implementing the geographic assignment rule for initial enrollment FQHCs now to avoid creating additional OJPs.
- An initial enrollment for an IHS FQHC will be submitted to the Jurisdiction 4 MAC.
- A new, non-tribal FQHC will submit its initial CMS-855A application to the FI or MAC that covers the state where the facility is located.
- Some classes of FQHCs may present latent challenges for the geographic assignment rule. However, CMS will make accommodations for these providers.

For example, if an initial enrollment FQHC satellite is located in the jurisdiction of a MAC other than the audit MAC, then the geographic MAC will service the claims, and the audit MAC will service the cost report.

### RHCs and ESRD Facilities

- RHCs and many ESRD facilities have been serviced by a limited set of regional FIs in the legacy environment.
- Those legacy FI workloads will be absorbed by incoming MACs.
- Out-of-jurisdiction RHCs and ESRD facilities will be transferred to their destination MACs during the OJP migration.
- An initial enrollment for a RHC or ESRD facility will be submitted to the MAC or FI that serves the state where the RHC or ESRD facility is located.

**Note:** If the FQHC, RHC or ESRD facility is provider-based, it will be assigned to the FI or MAC that covers the state where the main provider is located.

Provider Needs to Know...

**Misfiled CMS 855-A Applications**

- If a FQHC, RHC or ESRD facility submits a CMS-855A initial application to an incorrect Medicare contractor, the receiving contractor will mail the application to the appropriate contractor.
- The receiving contractor will notify the provider that its application has been sent to the new contractor and that all future questions regarding the application should be directed to the new contractor.

**Internet-based PECOS**

- FQHCs, RHCs, and ESRD facilities will not be able to use Internet-based PECOS for the filing of CMS-855A for:
  - Initial applications,
  - Changes of ownership, or
  - Changes of information.
- Only paper forms will be accepted for these transactions.

**Summary of Where to Send Applications**

Facility	New Enrollment Applications
FQHC	FI/MAC covering the state where they are located
RHC	FI/MAC covering the state where they are located
ESRD	FI/MAC covering the state where they are located
IHS FQHC	J4 MAC
Provider-based FQHC	FI/MAC servicing the main provider

**Background**

- The Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA; Section 911) amended the Social Security Act (the Act; Title XVIII) to add Section 1874A (Contracts with Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs)), which replaces the prior Medicare intermediary and carrier contracting authorities formerly found in Sections 1816 and 1842 of the Act.
- Section 1874A replaces the prior Medicare intermediary and carrier contracting authorities formerly found in Sections 1816 and 1842 of the Act.
- CMS procured the first A/B MAC in 2006 and continues to award the fifteen A/B MAC contracts. The process of moving workloads from legacy contractors to the MACs continues.
- The MMA also repealed the provider nomination provision of the Social Security Act and replaced it with the geographic assignment rule. Generally, a provider or supplier will be assigned to the MAC that covers the state where the provider or supplier is located. Exceptions to the geographic assignment rule are described in MLN Matters article MM5979, which can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5979.pdf> on the CMS website.

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Operational Impact      N/A

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Reference Materials

The related MLN Matters article can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6207.pdf> on the CMS website.

The official instruction (CR6207) issued regarding this change may be viewed at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1707CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

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