



Standard System Change to Allow Claims Processing Contractors Flexibility with 9-Digit ZIP Codes – JA6293

Related CR Release Date: January 30, 2009

Date Job Aid Revised: February 5, 2009

Effective Date: Claims processed on or after July 6, 2009

Implementation Date: July 6, 2009

Key Words MM6293, CR6293, R1675CP, ZIP

Contractors Affected

- Medicare Carriers
- Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs)

Provider Types Affected Physicians, providers, and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare Carriers and/or A/B MACs for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries



- Change Request (CR) 6293 revises Medicare systems to allow Medicare contractors to add new and valid 4-digit ZIP code extensions more quickly to the file they use for jurisdictional pricing, which will enable claims requiring use of the 9-digit ZIP code to process faster when new ZIP codes are established. Contractors receive the ZIP code file quarterly from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Provider Needs to Know...

- Should a physician, provider, or supplier have received a claim denial informing them that the 4-digit ZIP code extension they submitted was invalid, but they have verified validity through the United States Postal Service, they should contact their carrier or A/B MAC so that the ZIP code can be added to the file and the claim processed appropriately.
- These changes are effective for claims processed on or after July 6, 2009.
- CR6293 makes no change to the policy of jurisdictional payment for claims paid under the physician fee schedule and anesthesia claims.

Background

Currently, it can take contractors up to a month to process claims for services provided in areas with new 4-digit ZIP code extensions that have not yet been added to the CMS 9-digit ZIP code file.

**Operational
Impact**

N/A

**Reference
Materials**

The related MLN Matters article can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6293.pdf> on the CMS website.

The official instruction (CR6293) issued regarding this change may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1675CP.pdf> on the CMS website.
