Clarification of Date of Service (DOS) of Ambulance Services – JA6372

Related CR Release Date: February 13, 2009

Date Job Aid Revised: February 27, 2009

Effective Date: March 13, 2009

Implementation Date: March 13, 2009

Key Words

MM6372, CR6372, R1682CP, Date of Service, Ambulance, DOS

Contractors Affected

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

Provider Types Affected

Providers and suppliers submitting claims to Medicare Carriers, FIs, and/or A/B MACs for ambulance services provided to Medicare beneficiaries

---

Change Request (CR) 6372 clarifies the proper DOS providers should use on claims for ambulance services, especially in situations where the beneficiary dies.

Provider Needs to Know…

Note: Failure to code DOS correctly in these situations could result in the denial of the claim.

The clarifications for providers of ambulance services are listed as follows:

- The DOS of an ambulance service is the date that the loaded ambulance vehicle (ground or air) departs the point of pickup, except in cases where the beneficiary is pronounced dead as noted below.
- In the case of a ground transport, if the beneficiary is pronounced dead after the vehicle is dispatched, but before the (now deceased) beneficiary is loaded into the vehicle, the DOS is considered to be the date of the ambulance vehicle's dispatch.

- In the case of an air transport, if the beneficiary is pronounced dead after the aircraft takes off to pick up the beneficiary, the DOS is considered to be the date of the ambulance vehicle's takeoff.

Background	The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is clarifying its policy towards DOS for ambulance services, especially in regard to a beneficiary's date of death.
Operational Impact	Contractors will continue to deny claims for ambulance services when the DOS reported on the claim is one day or more beyond the beneficiary's date of death according to the Common Working File.
Reference Materials	The related MLN Matters article can be found at *http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6372.pdf* on the CMS website. The official instruction (CR6372) issued regarding this change may be viewed at *http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1682CP.pdf* on the CMS website. .