



Tracking the Hospice Attending Physician's National Provider Identifier (NPI) for Validating Hospice Part B Payments – JA6540

Note: MLN Matters® article MM6540 was revised on December 24, 2009, to show the reporting instructions for hospices are OPTIONAL beginning January 1, 2010, but are required as of April 1, 2010. There is also a change to the CR release date, transmittal number and the Web address for accessing the CR.

Related CR Release Date: December 23, 2009 **Revised**

Date Job Aid Revised: December 29, 2009

Effective Date: January 1, 2010, for OPTIONAL reporting by hospices; April 1, 2010 for MANDATORY reporting by hospices

Implementation Date: January 4, 2010

Key Words	CR6540, MM6540, R1885CP, Hospice
Contractors Affected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Home Health Intermediaries (RHHIs) • Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs)
Provider Types Affected	Hospices submitting claims to Medicare A/B MACs and/or RHHIs for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries in a hospice benefit period



CR6540 intends to ensure that the hospice reported data in the Notice of Election (NOE) and claims for the attending physician, which may be a Nurse Practitioner (NP), meet the definition of attending physician/NP in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), while also reporting the hospice physician responsible for certifying the terminal illness.

Provider Needs to Know...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective with NOEs/claims with effective dates or dates of service on or after January 1, 2010, hospices may begin to report the NPI of the attending physician/NP in the attending physician field of the NOE and claim. • For NOEs/claims with effective dates or dates of service on or after April 1, 2010, hospices must report this data. • In addition, for claims with dates of service on or after January 1, 2010, and on NOEs with effective dates on or after January 1, 2010, the hospice may begin to enter in the "Other Physician" field on the NOE/claim the NPI and name of the hospice physician responsible for certifying the patient is terminally ill with a life expectancy of 6 months or
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less if the disease runs its normal course.

- Hospices are required to report this data on NOEs/claims with effective dates or dates of service on or after April 1, 2010.
 - **Both the attending physician and other physician fields should be completed even if the hospice physician certifying the terminal illness is the same as the attending physician.**
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Background

- The 42 CFR 418.3 defines the attending physician as:
 - A doctor of medicine or osteopathy legally authorized to practice medicine and surgery by the state in which he or she performs that function or action; or
 - NP who meets the training, education, and experience requirements as described in 42 CFR 410.75; and
 - Is identified by the individual, at the time of his/her election to receive hospice care, as having the most significant role in the determination and delivery on the individual's medical care.
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**Operational
Impact** N/A

**Reference
Materials**

The related MLN Matters® article can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6540.pdf> on the CMS website.

The official instruction (CR6540), issued regarding this change is available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1885CP.pdf> on the CMS website.
