



Change Request (CR) 5971 Clarification - Signature Requirements – JA0829

Related CR Release Date : N/A

Date Job Aid Revised: August 26, 2008

Effective Date: N/A

Implementation Date: N/A

Key Words

SE0829, MM5971, CR5971, Signature

Contractors Affected

- Medicare Carriers
- Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs)
- Regional Home Health Intermediaries (RHHIs)
- Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs)
- Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractors (DME MACs)

Provider Types Affected

Physicians and other providers who bill Medicare Carriers, FIs, RHHIs, A/B MACs including DME MACs for care provided to Medicare beneficiaries



Stamped signatures are not acceptable on any medical record.

Provider Needs to Know...

- ***Stamped signatures are not acceptable on any medical record.*** Medicare will accept hand written, electronic signatures or facsimiles of original written, or electronic signatures.
- In addition, the Medicare Conditions of Participation (CoP) are requirements for ensuring health and safety. The CoPs define specific quality standards that providers must meet to participate in the Medicare program.
- A provider's compliance with the CoPs is ultimately determined by the CMS regional office based on the state survey agency recommendation (per the *Medicare Program*

Integrity Manual, Publication 100-8, Chapter 3, Section 3.4.2.1, which is available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/downloads/pim83c03.pdf> on the CMS website).

- Compliance with the CoPs and any related policies does not necessarily ensure that certain requirements for payment are being met.

Background

- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) wants to ensure accurate application of Medicare's program requirements throughout the nation.
- CMS has identified problems of noncompliance with existing statutes, regulations, rules, and other systematic problems relating to standards of practice for a valid physician's signature on medical orders and related medical documents.
- CR5971 (Transmittal #248) was issued to prohibit the use of stamped signatures. These requirements are intended to apply all providers/suppliers.

Operational Impact N/A

Reference Materials

The related MLN Matters article can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0829.pdf> on the CMS website.

The official instruction for CR5971 may be viewed at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R248PI.pdf> on the CMS website. The related MLN Matters article may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/mm5971.pdf> on the CMS website.
