



Related MLN Matters Article #: MM5118

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Medicare's Common Working File (CWF) Part C (Medicare Advantage Managed Care) Data Exchange and Data Display Changes

Key Words

MM5118, CR5118, R995CP, CWF, Part C, Advantage, Managed, MA

Provider Types Affected

Physicians, providers, and suppliers who provide services to Medicare beneficiaries enrolled under Medicare Part C

Key Points

Note: MLN Matters article MM5118 was revised to provide a link to the plan directory that can be used to associate the plan name to the plan number.

- The effective date of the instruction is October 1, 2006.
- The implementation date is October 2, 2006.
- The CWF contains data indicating when a beneficiary is enrolled under a Medicare Part C contract. Medicare Part C contracts are Medicare Advantage Managed Care Plans that provide Part A and B benefits for beneficiaries enrolled under the contract.
- The CWF receives this Part C data on a data feed from the Enrollment Database, another Medicare database.
- Currently, the CWF places an "H" in front of the Part C plan number, since prior to January 1, 2006, all plan numbers began with an "H." Once this change is implemented, the correct and complete plan contract numbers will then be on the CWF and will be given to providers when they inquire about Medicare beneficiaries.
- Effective January 1, 2006, Part C contract numbers can begin with a letter other than "H" and the Medicare CWF is being modified to handle this change, so correct numbers are sent to providers as part of beneficiary information.

Note: To associate plan identification numbers with the plan name, providers may view the plan directory at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MCRAAdvPartDEnrolData/PDMCPDO/list.asp#TopOfPage> on the CMS website.

- The number that will appear on CWF will begin with "H."
- For the following 11 plans, the alpha prefix is actually an "R." Prior to October, when using the web page look-up tool, providers should make sure to replace the "H" with an "R." The 11 plans are the following:
 - R3175, R5566, R5863, R5287, R5595, R5941, R5342, R5674, R9943, R5553, R5826.

Important Links

The related MLN Matters article can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM5118.pdf> on the CMS website.

The official instruction (CR5105) regarding this change may be viewed at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R995CP.pdf> on the CMS website.