



Indian Health Service (IHS) Provider Payment to non-IHS Physicians for Teleradiology Interpretations – JA6162

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Key Words	MM6162, CR6162, R1643CP, Teleradiology, IHS
Contractors Affected	IHS Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs)
Provider Types Affected	IHS hospital providers, and physicians, who bill the designated IHS MACs for providing teleradiology interpretation services for Medicare beneficiaries



Change Request (CR) 6162 defines and describes the mechanisms that IHS providers should use when they contract with non-IHS physicians for teleradiological interpretations.

Provider Needs to Know...

- There are two methods providers may use to purchase (or otherwise contract for) teleradiology interpretation and related services from non-IHS practitioners:
 - **Contractual Reassignment**
 - Under this provision, non-IHS physicians can reassign their benefits to the ordering IHS provider.
 - To provide these services, the non-IHS physician will need to enroll with the designated IHS MAC and complete a CMS-855-R form.
 - **Purchased Test**
 - The purchased test method is available when all applicable rules of independence are met (the physician ordering the test must not be an IHS employee).

- While all general jurisdictional and pricing rules apply for payment for these services, payment for teleradiology interpretation services under this option does not require the non-IHS physicians' enrollment with the designated IHS carrier or A/B MAC contractor.

Background

IHS hospital providers, faced with large geographic catchment areas and wide dispersions of their American Indian/Native Alaskan user populations, must frequently contract with non-IHS physicians to provide their physician services.

Note: The arrangements for payment in these situations are unique to IHS facilities and the Jurisdiction 4 MAC.

Operational
Impact

Medicare Carriers and MACS do not have to search their files to retract payment for claims already paid or to pay claims retroactively. They will adjust claims that provider bring to their attention.

Reference
Materials

The related MLN Matters article can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6162.pdf> on the CMS website.

The official instruction (CR6162) issued regarding this change may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1643CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

Providers can find the CMS-855R form at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/cmsforms/downloads/cms855r.pdf> on the CMS website.