

# **Jurisdiction B DME MAC Implementation AdminaStar Federal, Inc.**

July 1, 2006

## General Information

- Section 911 of the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003, known as the Medicare Contracting Reform provision, requires that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services compete all currently held contracts for administration of the fee-for-service Medicare program. The new contractors selected through these competitions will be called Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs).
- On January 6, 2006, CMS announced it had awarded the Durable Medical Equipment (DME) MAC contract for Jurisdiction B to AdminaStar Federal, Inc. (AdminaStar). AdminaStar was the incumbent contractor, or Durable Medical Equipment Regional Carrier, for the majority of the states that comprise Jurisdiction B.
- AdminaStar assumed full responsibility for the DME work on July 1, 2006.
- The Jurisdiction B DME MAC contract, like all other MAC contracts, may be renewed annually if the contractor meets performance expectations, but the contract must be recompeted at least every five years.

## Geographical Area

- The states included in DME MAC Jurisdiction B are: Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.
- Virginia and West Virginia were scheduled to move to DME MAC Jurisdiction C and be serviced by the DME MAC for that jurisdiction. However, due to the protest filed against the award for Jurisdiction C and the resultant delay in awarding a contract for that jurisdiction, Virginia and West Virginia will temporarily be assigned to AdminaStar.

## Communications with Supplier Community

- As part of the proposal submitted by AdminaStar and accepted by CMS in awarding the contract, AdminaStar developed a communications plan for working with partners, stakeholders, and supplier organizations. As part of that plan:
  - AdminaStar met with the major DME professional organizations, providing information regarding changes, and attending meetings and conventions.

- AdminaStar sent letters to all suppliers, providing articles/information to industry newsletters, and regularly provided information that includes monthly updates through electronic listservs and supplier bulletins.
- AdminaStar conducted web-based training seminars and one-on-one contacts with large supplier group billers to explain any changes that will occur.
- AdminaStar held monthly open door transition conference calls and seminars or workshops for suppliers.
- AdminaStar's website contains links dedicated to informing the supplier community of the transition and can be found at:  
<http://www.adminastarfederal.com/Providers/DMERC/ContractorReform/ContractorReform.html>

#### Enrollment, Claims Submission, and Appeals

- There will be no need for DME suppliers currently enrolled in the Medicare program to re-enroll or obtain a new supplier number. All supplier enrollment information will transfer from the DMERC to the new DME MAC.
- Suppliers in any state that will be serviced by AdminaStar effective July 1, 2006 can continue to submit electronic claims as they currently are doing. The claims will be electronically routed to AdminaStar for processing.
- Second level appeals with filing dates of January 1, 2006 and later are being processed by the Qualified Independent Contractor, Q2A Administrators.

#### Benefits to Suppliers of Awarding Contracts to DME MACs

- AdminaStar will be the focus for all Medicare customer service and provider communication activities to suppliers in its jurisdiction.
- As a DME MAC, AdminaStar is required to increase its focus on financial management. This means it will be expected to increase the accuracy of its payments to suppliers as well as be consistent in its payment decisions.
- Suppliers will have an opportunity, if selected, to provide input into the performance evaluation of AdminaStar through completion of the CMS provider/supplier satisfaction surveys.