

MLN Matters Number: MM5019

Related Change Request (CR) #: 5019

Related CR Release Date: March 31, 2006

Effective Date: April 1, 2006

Related CR Transmittal #: R145PI

Implementation Date: April 3, 2006

## Rescind Change Request (CR) 4177- Eliminate the Use of Surrogate UPINs (OTH000) on Medicare Claims

**Note:** This article was updated on November 1, 2012, to reflect current Web addresses. This article was previously revised on June 27, 2008, to add a reference to SE0659 (<http://www.cms.gov/outreach-and-education/medicare-learning-network-mln/mlnmattersarticles/downloads/se0659.pdf>). SE0659 notified providers that they must report their NPI correctly on all electronic data interchange (EDI) transactions that they submit, as well as on paper claims they send to Medicare and telephone Interactive Voice Response (IVR) queries by no later than May 23, 2007, or their transactions will be rejected. All other information remains unchanged.

### Provider Types Affected

Physicians, non-physician practitioners, suppliers, and providers billing Medicare carriers, durable medical equipment regional carriers (DMERCs), fiscal intermediaries (FIs), or regional home health intermediaries (RHHIs) for diagnostic, radiology, consultation services, and equipment

### Provider Action Needed

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 5019, which rescinds CR4177. CR4177 eliminated the use of the surrogate Unique Physician Identification Number (UPIN) OTH000 on claims submitted by billers, suppliers, physicians and non-physician practitioners. CR5019 instructs Medicare contractors to discontinue all work to eliminate the use of the Surrogate UPIN "OTH000" in claims processing, and continue to use Surrogate UPIN "OTH000" for submitted claims and other internal purposes.

### Background

The Social Security Act (Section 1833(q); [http://www.ssa.gov/OP\\_Home/ssact/title18/1833.htm](http://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title18/1833.htm)) requires that:

#### Disclaimer

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- All physicians meeting the definition of a physician (Section 1861(r); [http://www.ssa.gov/OP\\_Home/ssact/title18/1861.htm](http://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title18/1861.htm)) must have a UPIN, and
- All claims for services ordered or referred by one of these physicians must include the names and UPINs of the ordering/referring physician.

Currently, durable medical equipment (DME) suppliers, physicians, and non-physician practitioners are allowed to use a Surrogate UPIN to bill for the following:

- Diagnostic services;
- Radiology services;
- Consultation services; and
- Durable medical equipment

CR4177 (Transmittal R752CP, dated November 10, 2005) instructed Medicare affiliated contractors (carriers, DMERCs, FIs, and RHHs) not to accept the Surrogate UPIN "OTH000" on Medicare claims submitted by billers, suppliers, physicians, and non-physician practitioners.

However, because of the possibility that this will adversely impact the ability of providers to bill the Medicare program, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) is rescinding CR4177.

Surrogate UPINs are intended to be used during an interim period when a UPIN has been requested but has not yet been received. Currently, durable medical equipment (DME) suppliers, physicians, and non-physician practitioners are allowed to use a surrogate UPIN to bill for:

- Diagnostic services;
- Radiology services;
- Consultation services; and
- Durable medical equipment.

CR5019 instructs your Medicare contractor(s) to:

- Discontinue all work to eliminate the use of the surrogate UPIN "OTH000" in claims processing; and
- Continue to use surrogate UPIN "OTH000" for submitted claims and other internal purposes.

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## Additional Information

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For complete details, please see the official instruction issued to your carrier/DMERC/FI/RHHI regarding this change. That instruction may be viewed at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R145PI.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your carrier/DMERC/FI/RHHI at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/provider-compliance-interactive-map/index.html> on the CMS website.

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