



News Flash – The Medicare Learning Network® (MLN) has released MLN Matters® Article #MM7133 to inform providers that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will cover counseling services to prevent tobacco use for outpatient and hospitalized beneficiaries. Effective for claims with dates of service on and after August 25, 2010, CMS will cover tobacco cessation counseling for outpatient and hospitalized Medicare beneficiaries 1) who use tobacco, regardless of whether they have signs or symptoms of tobacco-related disease; 2) who are competent and alert at the time that counseling is provided; and 3) whose counseling is furnished by a qualified physician or other Medicare-recognized practitioner. This article is based on Change Request (CR) 7133 and is available at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM7133.pdf> on the CMS website.

MLN Matters® Number: MM6984

Related Change Request (CR) #: 6984

Related CR Release Date: November 5, 2010

Effective Date: Claims processed on or after April 4, 2011

Related CR Transmittal #: R7990TN

Implementation Date: April 4, 2011

Note: This article was updated on December 6, 2012, to reflect current Web addresses. All other information remains unchanged.

Provider Education for Handling National Provider Identifier (NPI) Issues Related to Deceased Providers Who Had an NPI

Provider Types Affected

This article is relevant for claims of physicians, non-physician practitioners, and other providers/suppliers who are deceased and for whom claims are submitted to Medicare contractors (carriers, Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractors (DME MACs) and Part A/B MACs) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

What You Need to Know

This article is based on change request (CR) 6984 and explains how claims should be submitted by representatives of deceased providers who had obtained an NPI prior to death. A claim submitted after May 23, 2007, for a deceased provider who had an NPI will be rejected by Medicare because the provider's NPI was deactivated in the Medicare claims processing system due to the provider's

Disclaimer

This article was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This article may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents.

death. When a deceased provider's claim is rejected by a Medicare contractor because of the absence of an NPI, the claim submitter is expected to contact the Medicare contractor to discuss payment of the claim and the provider's death.

The Medicare contractor will ask the representative of the provider's estate to submit the claim in paper format and will instruct the representative that Item 19 of the Form CMS-1500 claim must be annotated to state that the provider is deceased.

Additional Information

If you have questions, please contact your Medicare carrier, DME MAC, or A/B MAC 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 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website.

The official instruction, CR6984, issued to your Medicare contractor regarding this change, may be viewed at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R7990TN.pdf> on the CMS website.

News Flash - Each Office Visit is an Opportunity. Medicare patients give many reasons for not getting their annual flu vaccination, but the fact is that there are 36,000 flu-related deaths in the United States each year, on average. More than 90% of these deaths occur in people 65 years of age and older. Please talk with your Medicare patients about the importance of getting their annual flu vaccination. This Medicare-covered preventive service will protect them for the entire flu season. And remember, vaccination is important for health care workers too, who may spread the flu to high risk patients. **Don't forget to immunize yourself and your staff. Protect your patients. Protect your family. Protect yourself. Get Your Flu Vaccine - Not the Flu.** Remember – Influenza vaccine plus its administration are covered Part B benefits. Note that influenza vaccine is NOT a Part D covered drug. For information about Medicare's coverage of the influenza vaccine and its administration, as well as related educational resources for health care professionals and their staff, please visit http://www.cms.gov/MLNProducts/Downloads/Flu_Products.pdf and <http://www.cms.gov/AdultImmunizations> on the CMS website.

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