

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



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MLN Matters® Number: MM7363 **Revised**

Related Change Request (CR) #: 7363

Related CR Release Date: February 22, 2012, 2011

Effective Date: February 3, 2012

Related CR Transmittal #: R408PI

Implementation Date: March 9, 2012

Additional Provider and Supplier Enrollment Requirements for Fixed Wing and Helicopter Air Ambulance Operators

Note: This article was revised on March 15, 2012, to reflect a revised CR7363 issued on February 22. In the article, the bullets on pages 2 and 3 (**in bold**) were added to conform with the revised CR7363. Also, the implementation date, CR release date, transmittal number, and the Web address for accessing CR7363 were revised. All other information is the same.

Provider Types Affected

This MLN Matters® article is intended for ambulance suppliers submitting claims for air ambulance services to Medicare Carriers and A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs) are affected by this article.

Provider Action Needed

This article, based on Change Request (CR) 7363, informs you that, on November 29, 2010, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) published a final rule

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that clarified the reporting requirements for air ambulance suppliers. The rule states that within 30 days of any revocation or suspension of a Federal or State license or certification including Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certification, an air ambulance supplier must report the revocation or suspension of its license or certification to the applicable Medicare contractor.

Air ambulance suppliers must maintain either directly or through appropriate arrangements, compliance with all applicable Federal and State licenses, and certifications and report the following FAA certifications: Specific pilot certification, instrument and medical certifications, and air worthiness certification.

Background

Medicare contractors must ensure that the air ambulance suppliers remain in compliance with all licensure, and other pertinent Federal and State requirements. The Medicare contractor evaluation process will include an evaluation of all documentation submitted with the CMS 855 B Provider Enrollment Application, and as appropriate, verification with the FAA website.

Attachment 1 to the CMS 855 B Medicare Enrollment Application (Clinics/Group Practices and Certain other Suppliers (07/11) outlines the information that should be submitted with the initial or revalidation air ambulance application. (The 855B application is available at <http://www.cms.gov/CMSforms/downloads/cms855b.pdf> on the CMS website.) In pertinent part Attachment 1 specifies the following additional information is to be submitted with the application:

- A written statement, signed by the President, Chief Executive Officer or Chief Operating Officer of the airport from where the aircraft is hangared that gives the name and address of the facility; and
- Proof that the enrolling ambulance company, or the company leasing the air ambulance vehicle to the enrolling ambulance company, possesses a valid charter flight license (FAA 135 Certificate) for the aircraft being used as an air ambulance. **If the enrolling ambulance company owns the aircraft, the owner's name on the FAA 135 certificate must be the same as the enrolling ambulance company's name on the enrollment application.**

If the enrolling ambulance company leases the aircraft from another company, a copy of the lease agreement must accompany the enrollment application.

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In addition, Medicare contractors will accept the following as acceptable proof:

- If the air ambulance supplier or provider owns the aircraft, the owner's name on the FAA Part 135 certificate must be the same as the supplier's or provider's name on the enrollment application.
- If the air ambulance supplier or provider owns the aircraft but contracts with an air services vendor to supply pilots, training and/or vehicle maintenance, the FAA Part 135 certificate must be issued in the name of the air services vendor. A certification from the supplier or provider must also attest that it has an agreement with the air services vendor and must list the date of that agreement. A copy of the FAA Part 135 Certificate must accompany the enrollment application.
- If the air ambulance supplier or provider leases the aircraft from another entity, a copy of the lease agreement must accompany the enrollment application. The name of the company leasing the aircraft from that other entity must be the same as the supplier's or provider's name on the enrollment application.

Additional Information

The official instruction, CR7363 issued to your carrier and A/B MAC regarding this change may be viewed at <http://www.cms.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R408PI.pdf> on the CMS website. If you have any questions, please contact your carrier or A/B MAC at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website.

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