

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



Recently, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released its quarterly enhancement to the Physician Compare website. Improvements were based on recommendations made during July 2011 testing as well as suggestions from users and stakeholders. This is part of the CMS' ongoing effort to improve the Physician Compare website's data accuracy and ease of use. The feedback tool now allows providers and beneficiaries to contact Physician Compare administrators directly with questions or concerns. For additional information on future new releases and updates visit the [Physician Compare website](#).

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**Information on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Fraud Prevention: Automated Provider Screening and National Site Visit Initiatives**

**Note: A more current article on this subject, SE1520, was issued on August 11, 2015. That article is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/SE1520.pdf> on the CMS website.**

**Provider Types Affected**

This MLN Matters® Special Edition Article is intended for all providers and suppliers, who enroll in the Medicare program and submit Fee-For-Service (FFS) claims to Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs), carriers, A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs), and/or Regional Home Health Intermediaries (RHHIs), for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

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## What You Need to Know

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This article provides you with the latest information about the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) National Fraud Prevention Program (NFPP) initiative. The initiative includes additional tools to assist CMS in its efforts to prevent fraud and abuse in the Medicare program starting with the enrollment process itself. This article describes two new processes that CMS now employs as part of the provider enrollment process: (1) Automated provider screening, and (2) implementation of a new national site visit contractor that will conduct site visits to certain providers and suppliers. This NFPP is intended to protect the Medicare Program and to ensure that correct Program payment is made only for covered appropriate and reasonable services provided to Medicare beneficiaries by legitimate providers of care.

## Key Information

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### *National Fraud Prevention Program (NFPP)*

The NFPP is an integral part of the CMS Fraud Prevention Initiative. The NFPP also enables CMS to proactively identify and respond to suspicious behavior, thus making the Agency more effective at fighting health care fraud than ever before. The NFPP focuses on two key program integrity gateways: provider enrollment and claims payment. By integrating these steps into one program, CMS can better ensure that it enrolls only qualified providers and pays only valid claims. CMS' comprehensive program integrity strategy is designed to stop fraudsters at every step of the process so CMS is now better able to:

- Identify and prevent bad actors from enrolling in Medicare;
- Identify and remove bad actors that are already in its programs; and
- Identify and prevent payment of fraudulent claims by responding with quick administrative action.

### *Automated Provider Screening: Ensuring Program Integrity at the Provider Enrollment Stage*

CMS is implementing an Automated Provider Screening (APS) process that will screen providers and suppliers by automating data checks and developing methods to proactively identify fraud, waste, and abuse. APS will validate provider and supplier enrollment application information using various public and private databases as well as automatically check other referential databases. APS is expected to be fully implemented mid-2012 and it will:

- Reduce provider and supplier enrollment application processing time since there will be less manual review of the databases currently used in the verification process;

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- On a continual basis, monitor the veracity and accuracy of all provider and supplier enrollment data including the status of licensure, sanctions or exclusions, and adverse legal actions;
- Assess the individual level of risk each provider and supplier presents to the Medicare program; and
- Be used by CMS and Medicare contractors (FIs, MACs, etc.) to verify, update, and act on relevant information found during the enrollment process-and on a continual enrollment basis.

APS is designed to ensure that Medicare enrolls only qualified providers and suppliers who meet and maintain compliance with its enrollment requirements.

### ***National Site Visit Contractor: Ensuring Program Integrity at the Provider Enrollment Stage***

CMS has implemented a site visit verification process using a National Site Visit Contractor (NSVC). The site visit verification process is a screening mechanism to prevent questionable providers and suppliers from enrolling in the Medicare program. The NSVC will conduct site visits for all providers and suppliers except for the Durable Medical Equipment (DMEPOS) which will continue to be conducted by the National Supplier Clearinghouse. The NSVC will verify enrollment related information during the site visit and collect specific information based on pre-defined checklists.

MSM Security Services, LLC was awarded the national site visit contract. MSM and its subcontractors, Computer Evidence Specialists, LLC (CES) and Health Integrity, LLC (HI) are authorized by CMS to conduct the provider and supplier site visits. Inspectors performing the site visits will be employees of MSM, CES or HI and shall possess a photo ID and a letter of authorization issued and signed by CMS that the provider or supplier may review.

## **Additional Information**

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To learn more about the predictive analytics process, refer to MLN Matters® Special Edition Article SE1133, titled “Predictive Modeling Analysis of Medicare Claims.” The article is available at <http://www.cms.gov/MLNArticles/Downloads/SE1133.pdf> on the CMS website.

To learn more about the *CMS Fraud Prevention Initiative*, visit the “Fraud Prevention Toolkit” web page at [http://www.cms.gov/Partnerships/04\\_FraudPreventionToolkit.asp](http://www.cms.gov/Partnerships/04_FraudPreventionToolkit.asp) on the CMS website.

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