



## Common Working File (CWF) Provider Queries National Provider Identifier (NPI) Verification

MLN Matters Number: MM10983 **Revised**

Related Change Request (CR) Number: 10983

Related CR Release Date: January 29, 2019

Effective Date: April 1, 2019

Related CR Transmittal Number: R2241OTN

Implementation Date: April 1, 2019

**Note: This article is revised on February 5, 2019, to delete references to Submitter ID changes removed from CR 10983. All other information remains the same.**

### PROVIDER TYPES AFFECTED

This MLN Matters Article is intended for Medicare Part A providers billing Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

### PROVIDER ACTION NEEDED

CR10983 announces that the Common Working File (CWF) will require verification of the National Provider Identifier (NPI) similar to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Eligibility Transaction System (HETS) when Medicare Part A providers request Medicare beneficiary eligibility and entitlement data via the CWF provider inquiry screens. Make sure your billing staffs are aware of this update.

### BACKGROUND

Medicare Part A providers, clearinghouses and billing agents can request Part A Medicare beneficiary eligibility information from CWF. There are five Part A eligibility queries available through the CWF.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is directing CWF to modify each Part A eligibility inquiry and establish verification processes similar to those established in HETS. This change will align the verification process for Part A eligibility data across the CMS systems. Thus, with the implementation of this change request, the CWF host will verify the status of the NPI against information provided by the Provider Enrollment, Chain and Ownership System (PECOS).

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Currently, Medicare Part A providers have access to Medicare beneficiary eligibility and entitlement data through 1) MACs portals, 2) HETS, and/or 3) CWF provider inquiry screens.

With implementation of CR 10983, Medicare Part A providers must provide valid NPI in the PECOS system to access CWF provider inquiry screens.

The official instruction, CR10983, issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/2019Downloads/R2241OTN.pdf>.

If you have questions, your MACs may have more information. Find their website at <http://go.cms.gov/MAC-website-list>.

## DOCUMENT HISTORY

Date of Change	Description
February 5, 2019	This article is revised to delete references to Submitter ID changes removed from CR 10983. All other information remains the same.
January 29, 2019	This article was revised to reflect an updated CR that removed the July 2019 verification effective and implementation dates. The transmittal number, CR release date and link to the transmittal were also changed.
November 13, 2018	Initial article released.

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