



# MLN Matters<sup>®</sup>



Information for Medicare Fee-For-Service Health Care Professionals

MLN Matters Number: MM3231

Related Change Request (CR) #: 3231

Related CR Release Date: August 3, 2004

Effective Date: January 1, 2005

Related CR Transmittal #: 269

Implementation Date: January 3, 2005

## Minimum Number of Drug Pricing Files That Must Be Maintained Online for Medicare

**Note:** This article was updated on May 7, 2013, to reflect current Web addresses. All other information remains unchanged.

### Provider Types Affected

All providers billing Medicare carriers for drugs

### Provider Action Needed

This change request is for your information only.

### Background

Medicare is creating a new minimum standard for the number of online drug price determination files that your Medicare carrier will maintain. The new minimum standard is eight fee screens/pricing files (the current period and seven prior files) for Part B (payment on a fee-for-service) drugs that you bill.

Since January 1, 2003, Medicare carriers have paid drug claims based on the prices shown on the Single Drug Pricer (SDP) files. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is creating a new minimum standard for the number of online pricing files maintained by carriers for determining drug prices. The new minimum standard is raised from five to eight fee screens/pricing files for Part B drugs billed to carriers for payment on a fee-for-service basis.

This will allow Medicare to be more precise in paying the rate in effect at the time services are provided.

#### Disclaimer

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## Additional Information

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To view the actual instruction issued to your carrier, go to <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R269CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your carrier 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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