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MLN Matters Number: MM5118 **Revised**

Related Change Request (CR) #: 5118

Related CR Release Date: June 30, 2006

Effective Date: October 1, 2006

Related CR Transmittal #: R995CP

Implementation Date: October 2, 2006

Medicare's Common Working File (CWF) Part C (Medicare Advantage Managed Care) Data Exchange and Data Display Changes

Note: This article was updated on November 8, 2012, to reflect current Web addresses. This article was previously revised on July 1, 2008, to provide a link to the plan directory that can be used to associate the plan name to the plan number on page 2. All other information remains the same.

Provider Types Affected

Physicians, providers, and suppliers who provide services to Medicare beneficiaries enrolled under Medicare Part C

Impact on Providers

CR5118 provides notice that effective January 2006, Medicare Part C plan contract numbers can begin with a character other than an "H."

As a result of changes in the assignment of Medicare Part C plan contract numbers, the entire five-position alpha/numeric Medicare Part C plan contract number will be provided to the common working file (CWF), which is a key file used by Medicare systems to provide beneficiary information to providers.

Currently, the CWF places an "H" in front of the Part C plan number, since prior to January 1, 2006, all plan numbers began with an "H." Once this change is implemented, the correct and complete plan contract numbers will then be on the CWF and will be given to providers when they inquire about Medicare beneficiaries.

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.

Background

CWF contains data indicating when a beneficiary is enrolled under a Medicare Part C contract. Medicare Part C contracts are Medicare Advantage Managed Care Plans that provide Part A and B benefits for beneficiaries enrolled under the contract. CWF receives this Part C data on a data feed from the Enrollment Database (EDB), another Medicare database. Effective January 1, 2006, Part C contract numbers can begin with a letter other than "H" and the Medicare CWF is being modified to handle this change, so correct numbers are sent to providers as part of beneficiary information.

Note: To associate plan identification numbers with the plan name, providers may view the plan directory at <http://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/MCRAdvPartDENrolData/index.html> on the CMS website.

The number that will appear on CWF will begin with "H." For the following 11 plans, the alpha prefix is actually an "R." Prior to October, when using the web page look-up tool, make sure to replace the "H" with an "R." The 11 plans are the following:

R3175	R5566	R5863
R5287	R5595	R5941
R5342	R5674	R9943
R5553	R5826	

Additional Information

CR5118 is the official instruction issued to your Medicare carrier/durable medical equipment regional carrier (DMERC) or fiscal intermediary (FI) regarding changes mentioned in this article. CR5118 may be found at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R995CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have questions please contact your Medicare carrier/FI/DMERC 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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