

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



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- [“Communicating With Your Medicare Patients”](#) Fact Sheet (ICN 908063) hard copy

MLN Matters® Number: MM8559 **Revised**

Related Change Request (CR) #: CR 8559

Related CR Release Date: April 11, 2014

Effective Date: July 14, 2014

Related CR Transmittal #: R2930CP

Implementation Date: July 14, 2014

Denial Letters for Religious Nonmedical Health Care Institution Services Not Covered by Medicare

Note: This article was revised on February 25, 2015, to delete information pertaining to diagnosis coding and reference to CR8350. All other information remains the same.

Provider Types Affected

This MLN Matters® Article is intended for Religious Nonmedical Health Care Institutions (RNHCIs) submitting claims to Medicare Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractors (DME/MACs) and A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for services to Medicare beneficiaries.

Provider Action Needed

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 8559 which informs MACs about revisions to Medicare systems edits related to diagnosis coding instructions on RNHCI claims. It also adds instructions regarding requests for denial letters when RNHCIs provide a level of care that is not covered by Medicare to a beneficiary who does not desire to submit a Notice of Election (NOE) for the sole purpose of obtaining that specific service, which may be covered by another insurer. Make sure that your billing staffs are aware of these changes.

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Background

Denial Notices for Non-covered Levels of RNHCI Care

RNHCI facilities sometimes provide services to Medicare beneficiaries that do not qualify for Medicare coverage and for which the beneficiary may seek payment from another insurer. The other insurer may require a denial from Medicare before making payment for these services. Medicare systems require submission of a Notice of Election (NOE) before any RNHCI claims can be processed. In order for a claim requesting a denial notice to be processed, the RNHCI would need to inappropriately submit an NOE, since the beneficiary is not requesting Medicare coverage of RNHCI services.

In order to avoid having the RNHCI issue an inappropriate NOE, the RNHCI may request in writing a denial notice from the appropriate MAC. In response, the MAC will provide the RNHCI with a manual denial letter. This letter may then be submitted to a secondary insurer as evidence of a prior Medicare denial.

Additional Information

The official instruction, CR 8559 issued to your MAC regarding this change may be viewed at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R2930CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

If you have any questions, please contact your MAC 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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