

MEDICARE PHYSICIAN GUIDE:
A Resource for Residents, Practicing
Physicians, and Other Health Care Professionals
Eighth Edition – April 2006

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MEDICARE CONTRACTING REFORM (MCR) UPDATE

Section 911 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act (MMA) of 2003 enacted numerous contracting reforms. A key aspect of these reforms is that Medicare will begin integrating Fiscal Intermediaries (FI) and Carriers into a new single authority, called a Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC). As of October 1, 2005, new Medicare Contractors are called MACs. Also, from October 2004 through October 2011, all existing FI and Carrier contracts will be transitioned into MAC contracts, using competitive procedures. Providers may access the most current MCR information to determine the impact of these changes at www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicareContractingReform on the CMS website.

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