

CMS Manual System	Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS)
Pub 100-20 One-Time Notification	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
Transmittal 352	Date: JUNE 13, 2008
	Change Request 6091

SUBJECT: Notification of New Quarterly Updates to the Ambulance Fee Schedule Public Use File (PUF)

I. SUMMARY OF CHANGES: With continuing Medicare Claims Processing Contracting reform, some of the Contractor/Carrier numbers included in the 2008 annual Ambulance Fee Schedule Public Use File (PUF) posted to the CMS Web site may be outdated. To ensure that the Contractor/Carrier numbers contained in the file are as accurate as possible, a quarterly update to the PUF file, containing new Contractor/Carrier numbers, will be posted to the CMS Web site until all contracting reform is completed. The updated information will be highlighted with italicized red text.

New / Revised Material

Effective Date: July 28, 2008

Implementation Date: July 28, 2008

Disclaimer for manual changes only: The revision date and transmittal number apply only to red italicized material. Any other material was previously published and remains unchanged. However, if this revision contains a table of contents, you will receive the new/revised information only, and not the entire table of contents.

II. CHANGES IN MANUAL INSTRUCTIONS: (N/A if manual is not updated)

R=REVISED, N=NEW, D=DELETED-*Only One Per Row.*

R/N/D	Chapter / Section / Subsection / Title
N/A	

III. FUNDING:

SECTION A: For Fiscal Intermediaries and Carriers:

No additional funding will be provided by CMS; Contractor activities are to be carried out within their operating budgets.

SECTION B: For Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs):

The Medicare Administrative Contractor is hereby advised that this constitutes technical direction as defined in your contract. CMS does not construe this as a change to the MAC Statement of Work. The contractor is not obligated to incur costs in excess of the amounts allotted in your contract unless and until specifically authorized by the Contracting Officer. If the contractor considers anything provided, as described above, to be outside the current scope of work, the contractor shall withhold performance on the part(s) in question and immediately notify the Contracting Officer, in writing or by e-mail, and request formal directions regarding continued performance requirements.

IV. ATTACHMENTS:

One-Time Notification

**Unless otherwise specified, the effective date is the date of service.*

Attachment – One-Time Notification

Pub. 100-20	Transmittal: 352	Date: June 13, 2008	Change Request: 6091
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SUBJECT: Notification of New Quarterly Updates to the Ambulance Fee Schedule Public Use File (PUF)

Effective Date: July 28, 2008

Implementation Date: July 28, 2008

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Background: Section 4531 (b) (2) of the Balanced Budget Act (BBA) of 1997 added a new Section 1834 (1) to the Social Security Act which mandated the implementation of a national fee schedule for ambulance services furnished as a benefit under Medicare Part B. The fee schedule was effective for claims with dates of service on or after April 1, 2002, and it applies to all ambulance services, including volunteer, municipal, private, independent, and institutional providers, i.e., hospitals, critical access hospitals (except when it is the only ambulance service within 35 miles), and skilled nursing facilities. On an annual basis, CMS posts a file detailing the amounts payable under the Ambulance Fee Schedule for the benefit of public consumption to the CMS Web site, http://www.cms.hhs.gov/AmbulanceFeeSchedule/02_afspuf.asp#TopOfPage.

B. Policy: With continuing Medicare Claims Processing Contracting reform, some of the Contractor/Carrier numbers included in the 2008 annual Ambulance Fee Schedule Public Use File (PUF) posted to the CMS Web site may be outdated. To ensure that the Contractor/Carrier numbers contained in the file are as accurate as possible, a quarterly update to the PUF file will be posted to the CMS website until all contracting reform is completed. The quarterly file will be posted whether or not there are Contractor/Carrier number changes to report. Any updated information will be highlighted with italicized red text. Contractors shall educate their local ambulance providers that quarterly updates to the Ambulance Fee Schedule PUF file will be made available for their information on the CMS Web site.

II. BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS TABLE

Use "Shall" to denote a mandatory requirement

Number	Requirement	Responsibility (place an "X" in each applicable column)								
		A / B M A C	D M E M A C	F I	C A R I E R	R H I	Shared-System Maintainers			
						F I S S	M C S	V M S	C W F	
6091.1	Contractors shall educate their ambulance providers that quarterly updates to the Ambulance Fee Schedule Public Use File will be made available on the CMS Web site at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/AmbulanceFeeSchedule/02_afspuf.asp#TopOfPage	X		X	X					

III. PROVIDER EDUCATION TABLE

Number	Requirement	Responsibility (place an "X" in each applicable column)									
		A / B M A C	D M E M A C	F I	C A R R I E R	R H H I	Shared-System Maintainers				OTHER
							F I S S	M C S	V M S	C W F	
6091.2	Contractors shall post this entire instruction, or a direct link to this instruction, on their Web sites and include information about it in a listserv message within 1 week of the release of this instruction. In addition, the entire instruction must be included in the Contractors next regularly scheduled bulletin. Contractors are free to supplement it with localized information that would benefit their provider community in billing and administering the Medicare program correctly.	X		X	X						

IV. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Section A: For any recommendations and supporting information associated with listed requirements, use the box below:

Use "Should" to denote a recommendation.

X-Ref Requirement Number	Recommendations or other supporting information:

Section B: For all other recommendations and supporting information, use this space:

V. CONTACTS

Pre-Implementation Contact(s): Eric Coulson; by email to eric.coulson@cms.hhs.gov, or by phone to (410)786-3352.

Post-Implementation Contact(s): Eric Coulson; by email to eric.coulson@cms.hhs.gov, or by phone to (410)786-3352.

VI. FUNDING

Section A: For *Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs), Carriers, and Regional Home Health Carriers (RHHIs)*: No additional funding will be provided by CMS; contractor activities are to be carried out within their operating budgets.

Section B: *For Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs)*: The Medicare Administrative Contractor is hereby advised that this constitutes technical direction as defined in your contract. CMS does not construe this as a change to the MAC Statement of Work. The contractor is not obligated to incur costs in excess of the amounts allotted in your contract unless and until specifically authorized by the Contracting Officer. If the contractor considers anything provided, as described above, to be outside the current scope of work, the contractor shall withhold performance on the part(s) in question and immediately notify the Contracting Officer, in writing or by e-mail, and request formal directions regarding continued performance requirements.