

Program Memorandum Intermediaries/Carriers

Department of Health &
Human Services (DHHS)
Centers for Medicare &
Medicaid Services (CMS)
Date: AUGUST 8, 2003

Transmittal AB-03-118

CHANGE REQUEST 2864

SUBJECT: Cease Further Work on the Eligibility File-Based Standard Trading Partner Agreement (STPA) for the Purpose of Coordination of Benefits (COB)

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Background: This instruction supersedes guidance provided to you in AB-03-066 and AB-02-095. Through these previous instructions, you were directed to not enter into new TPAs for the purpose of COB with non-insurer entities (also termed “trading partner business associates”). You were also notified to terminate your existing TPAs with these non-insurers entities and to convert your existing TPAs with appropriate entities over to the Eligibility File-Based STPA by September 30, 2003.

II. BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS

Requirement #	Requirements	Responsibility
	Contractors shall cease further efforts to convert their existing TPAs with insurers, State Medicaid Agencies, TRICARE, and other appropriate entities to the Eligibility File-Based STPA. Contractors that have already converted existing TPAs with appropriate entities to STPAs shall honor those Agreements until further notice.	Intermediaries and Carriers
	Contractors shall honor all existing TPAs, including newly executed STPAs, and cease further efforts to terminate TPAs with third party administrators, administrative services organizations (ASOs), and healthcare clearinghouses.	Intermediaries and Carriers
	If contractors have already terminated TPAs with COB trading partners but have not yet established new ones, they shall re-establish the previously terminated Agreements until further notice.	Intermediaries and Carriers
	If clearinghouses or third party administrators/ASOs approach you for purposes of entry into <u>new</u> TPAs, follow the procedures you had in place prior to the issuance of AB-02-095 until further notice.	Intermediaries and Carriers

III. SUPPORTING INFORMATION AND POSSIBLE DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

A. Other Instructions:

X-Ref Requirement #	Instructions
	Outreach materials on CMS' EDI Web site that pertain to the Eligibility File-Based STPA will be removed to take account of the above modified policy.

B. Design Considerations: N/A

X-Ref Requirement #	Recommendation for Medicare System Requirements

C. Interfaces: N/A

D. Contractor Financial Reporting /Workload Impact: N/A

E. Dependencies: N/A

F. Testing Considerations: N/A

IV. ATTACHMENT(S): None

Version: Final Implementation Date: August 8, 2003 Discard Date: August 31, 2004 Post-Implementation Contact: Brian Pabst (410-786-2487)	Effective Date: August 8, 2003 Funding: Within Your Current Operating Budget Pre-Implementation Contact: Brian Pabst (410-786-2487)
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