

CMS Manual System

Pub 100-20 One-Time Notification

Transmittal 210

Department of Health &
Human Services (DHHS)

Centers for Medicare &
Medicaid Services (CMS)

Date: FEBRUARY 10, 2006

Change Request 4346

SUBJECT: Creation of a Second Participation Enrollment Period for 2006

I. SUMMARY OF CHANGES: As a result of the Deficit Reduction Act, and the revision to the 2006 physician update, CMS is offering a second enrollment period for physicians to reconsider their decisions in light of the revised 0 percent update. The second enrollment period will run for 45 days and will begin on February 15, 2006. Any revisions to the Participation election during this new enrollment period will be retroactive to January 1, 2006.

NEW/REVISED MATERIAL

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 01, 2006

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: February 15, 2006 (Provider Education Must Begin Immediately Regarding the Dates of the Second Participation Enrollment Period).

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

R/N/D	CHAPTER/SECTION/SUBSECTION/TITLE
N/A	

III. FUNDING:

No additional funding will be provided by CMS; Contractor activities are to be carried out within their FY 2006 operating budgets.

IV. ATTACHMENTS:

One-Time Notification

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

Attachment – One-Time Notification

Pub. 100-20	Transmittal: 210	Date: February 10, 2006	Change Request 4346
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SUBJECT: Creation of a Second Participation Enrollment Period for 2006

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Background: The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 was enacted on February 8, 2006. Since enactment of this new legislation changed the 2006 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) rates, CMS has created a second Participation Enrollment period for 2006. This new enrollment period will run for 45 days, beginning on February 15, 2006 and ending on March 31, 2006. The effective date for any participation changes made during this second enrollment period will be retroactive to January 1, 2006.

B. Policy: Contractors shall perform provider outreach announcing the 2006 MPSF rate change and do provider education announcing the second Participation Enrollment period for 2006. There will not be a “mass-mailing” of Participation Agreements to providers associated with this second Participation enrollment period. Carriers shall follow the guidelines below:

- The Participation Agreement for the second enrollment period is effective January 1, 2006.
- Physicians and practitioners who submit their Participation election (or withdrawal request) for the second enrollment period must begin to bill claims in accordance with their decision once the election is submitted to the local carrier.
- Providers that do not wish to change their current Participation, or non-Participation, status will not need to do anything.

II. BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS

“Shall” denotes a mandatory requirement

“Should” denotes an optional requirement

Requirement Number	Requirements	Responsibility (“X” indicates the columns that apply)							
		F I	R H I	C a r r i e r	D M E R C	Shared System Maintainers			
					F I S S	M C S	V M S	C W F	
4346.1	Carriers shall accept any Participation changes during the second enrollment period which begins on February 15, 2006 and ends on March 31, 2006.			X					

Requirement Number	Requirements	Responsibility (“X” indicates the columns that apply)								
		F I	R H I	C a r r i e r	D M E R C	Shared System Maintainers				Other
						F I S S	M C S	V M S	C W F	
4346.2	Contractors shall accept Participation enrollment changes for 2006 that are received or post-marked by March 31, 2006.			X						
4346.3	Carriers shall educate physicians/practitioners that a second Participation enrollment period has been opened for 2006, and runs from February 15, 2006, through March 31, 2006. Any Participation changes are effective retroactive to January 1, 2006. NOTE: Provider education/outreach must begin as soon as possible after the President signs the legislation.			X						
4346.3.1	The above education shall be done as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Via the Medlearn Matters Article. • The carrier can also create their own articles for their Web site, and include the Participation Agreement. • Through customer service representatives (CSRs). The CSRs need to be prepared to answer questions/inquiries from physicians and practitioners on the second Participation enrollment period for 2006. • And any other viable provider outreach mechanism. 			X						
4346.4	Contractors shall ensure that any Participation enrollment changes made during the period of February 15, 2006, through March 31, 2006 are implemented with a retroactive effective date of January 1, 2006.			X						
4346.5	Carriers shall report the data for the second Participation Enrollment period ending March 31, 2006, to CMS via the CROWD system by May 15, 2006 (45days after the close of the second enrollment period).			X						

Requirement Number	Requirements	Responsibility (“X” indicates the columns that apply)							
		F I	R H I	C a r r i e r	D M E R C	Shared System Maintainers			
F I S S	M C S					V M S	C W F		
4346.6	Carriers shall not automatically adjust claims based on Participation changes unless brought to your attention.			X					
4346.7	Carriers shall furnish the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) with their Participation data within 30 days following the close of the second Participation Enrollment period for 2006. (Provide the RRB this data in the same manner as you did for the annual enrollment period.)			X					
4346.8	Carriers shall load their updated local MEDPARDs to their web sites within 30 days following the close of the second Participation Enrollment period for 2006.			X					
4346.9	Carriers are to send a hard-copy Participation Agreement (Form CMS-460) to those providers who do not have the ability to get a copy from the carrier Web site. NOTE: See Change Request 4051 for a copy of Form CMS-460, Medicare Participating Physician or Supplier Agreement.			X					

III. PROVIDER EDUCATION

Requirement Number	Requirements	Responsibility (“X” indicates the columns that apply)							
		F I	R H I	C a r r i e r	D M E R C	Shared System Maintainers			
F I S S	M C S					V M S	C W F		
4346.10	A provider education article related to this instruction will be available at www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/matters shortly after the CR is released. You will receive notification of the article release via the established "medlearn matters" listserv.			X					

Requirement Number	Requirements	Responsibility (“X” indicates the columns that apply)							
		F I	R H I	C a r r i e r	D M E R C	Shared System Maintainers			
F I S S	M C S					V M S	C W F		
	Contractors shall post this article, or a direct link to this article, on their Web site and include information about it in a listserv message within 1 week of the availability of the provider education article. In addition, the provider education article shall be included in your next regularly scheduled bulletin and incorporated into any educational events on this topic. Contractors are free to supplement Medlearn Matters articles with localized information that would benefit their provider community in billing and administering the Medicare program correctly.								

IV. SUPPORTING INFORMATION AND POSSIBLE DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

A. Other Instructions: N/A

X-Ref Requirement #	Instructions

B. Design Considerations: N/A

X-Ref Requirement #	Recommendation for Medicare System Requirements

C. Interfaces: N/A

D. Contractor Financial Reporting /Workload Impact: Contractors will have to report the Participation Enrollment statistics in CROWD for the new, second enrollment period of 2006.

E. Dependencies: This One-Time Notification is dependant on the passage of new the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, which was enacted on February 8, 2006.

F. Testing Considerations: In preparation for the new Legislation, contractors have already tested the revised MPFS database file, per JSM-06150, dated December 30, 2005.

V. SCHEDULE, CONTACTS, AND FUNDING

<p>Effective Date*: January 1, 2006.</p> <p>Implementation Date: February 15, 2006 (However, Provider Education must begin immediately regarding the dates of the second Participation Enrollment period).</p> <p>Pre-Implementation Contact(s): Kathleen Kersell at 410-786-2033, or kathleen.kersell@cms.hhs.gov; and April Billingsley at 410-786-0140, or april.billingsley@cms.hhs.gov</p> <p>Post-Implementation Contact(s): Contact your appropriate Regional Office.</p>	<p>No additional funding will be provided by CMS; contractor activities are to be carried out within their FY 2006 operating budgets.</p>
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