

# CMS Manual System

## Pub 100-04 Medicare Claims Processing

Transmittal 704

Department of Health &  
Human Services  
(DHHS)

Center for Medicare &  
Medicaid Services  
(CMS)

Date: OCTOBER 7,  
2005

Change Request 4062

**SUBJECT: Discontinuation of Biannual Recertification List for Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) Services**

**I. SUMMARY OF CHANGES:** The purpose of this instruction is to inform carriers that CMS will no longer send out the CRNA recertification list.

### NEW/REVISED MATERIAL

**EFFECTIVE DATE: November 7, 2005**

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE: November 7, 2005**

*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
R	12/140/140.1.1/Issuance of UPINs.
R	12/140/140.1.2/Annual Review of CRNA Certifications.

### 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:

Business Requirements

Manual Instruction

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







### **140.1.1 - Issuance of UPINs**

*(Rev.704, Issued: 10-07-05, Effective: 11-07-05, Implementation: 11-07-05)*

The CMS will provide a current list of all CRNAs in the carrier State who are certified by the Council on Certification of Nurse Anesthetists or the Council on Recertification of Nurse Anesthetists. Carriers will check this list of certified CRNAs to document and confirm that applicants are properly qualified. When the applicant begins to bill, the carrier will provide written notice that continued billing privileges are dependent upon continued certification. *However, effective August 1, 2005, CMS will discontinue sending the Biannual Recertification list for CRNAs to carriers.*

An employer of a group of CRNAs, e.g., a hospital, physician, or ASC may apply for a single PIN to cover all of the certified CRNAs in their employ. At the time of application, the employer must send a list of the names of all CRNAs for whom billing will be submitted. Carriers must then verify the certification status of the individuals on the list submitted by the employer. Carriers provide written notice to the employer of the names of the CRNAs it may bill for and require a statement from the employer certifying that it will bill only for those CRNAs who have been determined to be properly qualified. The employer must also agree to notify the carrier immediately if a CRNA leaves its employ or to seek authorization to bill for a new CRNA employee.

In the event an applicant for a billing number is not on the certification list provided by CMS, a notarized copy of the applicant's certification card issued by either of the Councils discussed above can be accepted. This may be necessary in situations where a CRNA has recently moved to a different State. The CMS will also provide carriers with a list of AAs eligible under this provision. The carrier must check this list to verify the presence of the applicant's name before issuing a billing number. In the event the applicant's name is not on this list, the carrier requires a notarized copy of the individual's diploma and other information deemed pertinent in order to verify the applicant's status.

### **140.1.2 - Annual Review of CRNA Certifications**

*(Rev.704, Issued: 10-07-05, Effective: 11-07-05, Implementation: 11-07-05)*

Carriers will review their files in November of each year to determine that the credentials of each CRNA continue to be valid. The CMS will provide an updated list of certified CRNAs each October. *However, effective August 1, 2005 CMS will discontinue sending the Biannual Recertification list for CRNAs to carriers. The CRNA recertification list was instituted prior to current enrollment procedures and is no longer deemed necessary. CMS requires contractors to verify a CRNA's qualifications when he or she first enrolls in Medicare. With respect to recertification, CRNA's typically only need to submit a recertification application and accompanying fee to the State. No recertification testing is required, thus greatly reducing the need for the ongoing review of a CRNA's credentials. In addition, since no other specialty has a similar biannual recertification list, CRNA's will now be handled the same as any other specialty so as to ensure uniformity.*

The billing privileges of any CRNA or qualified biller will be terminated if the CRNA's certification has expired or otherwise been terminated by the certifying councils. Carriers will provide advance written notice to the CRNA (and employer) of any such decision and provide for a review of the action if requested to do so.