

<b>CMS Manual System</b>	<b>Department of Health &amp; Human Services (DHHS)</b>
<b>Pub 100-04 Medicare Claims Processing</b>	<b>Centers for Medicare &amp; Medicaid Services (CMS)</b>
<b>Transmittal 13826</b>	<b>Date: June 11, 2026</b>
	<b>Change Request 14500</b>

**SUBJECT: Medicare Beneficiary Date of Death - Manual Update**

**I. SUMMARY OF CHANGES:** The purpose of this Change Request (CR) is to add manual instructions for a Medicare beneficiary's date of death and reporting instructions for a beneficiary's date of death.

**EFFECTIVE DATE: July 13, 2026**

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

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE: July 13, 2026**

*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.*

<b>R/N/D</b>	<b>CHAPTER / SECTION / SUBSECTION / TITLE</b>
R	1/Table of Contents
N	1/210/Medicare Beneficiary Date of Death- Background
N	1/210/1/How to Correct Incorrect Dates in Medicare Records
N	1/210/1/1/Healthcare Provider Errors
N	1/210/1/1.2/Date of Death Submitted by Family Member or Authorized Agent
N	1/210/1/1.3/Social Security Administration (SSA) or Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) Errors

**III. FUNDING:**

**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:**

**Business Requirements  
Manual Instruction**

# Attachment - Business Requirements

Pub. 100-04	Transmittal: 13826	Date: June 11, 2026	Change Request: 14500
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**I. SUMMARY OF CHANGES:** The purpose of this Change Request (CR) is to add manual instructions for a Medicare beneficiary's date of death and reporting instructions for a beneficiary's date of death.

**II. GENERAL INFORMATION**

**A. Background:** This change request is created to add a section in Publication 100-04, Chapter 1, Section 210. The new section will give background on a Medicare beneficiary's date of death and add instructions on how to correct a date of death for Medicare records.

**B. Policy:** N/A

**III. BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS TABLE**

*"Shall" denotes a mandatory requirement, and "should" denotes an optional requirement.*

Number	Requirement	Responsibility								
		A/B MAC			DME MAC	Shared-System Maintainers				Other
		A	B	HHH		FISS	MCS	VMS	CWF	
14500.1	Medicare contractors shall be advised of the newly created section in the Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Publication 100-04, Chapter 1, Section 210 regarding a Medicare beneficiary's date of death and instructions for reporting and correcting the date of death in Medicare records.	X	X	X	X					

**IV. PROVIDER EDUCATION**

Medicare Learning Network® (MLN): CMS will develop and release national provider education content and market it through the MLN Connects® newsletter shortly after we issue the CR. MACs shall link to relevant information on your website and follow IOM Pub. No. 100-09 Chapter 6, Section 50.2.4.1 for distributing the newsletter to providers. When you follow this manual section, you don't need to separately track and report MLN content releases. You may supplement with your local educational content after we release the newsletter.

**Impacted Contractors:** A/B MAC Part B, A/B MAC Part A, A/B MAC Part HHH, DME MAC

## V. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

**Section A: Recommendations and supporting information associated with listed requirements: N/A**

*"Should" denotes a recommendation.*

<b>X-Ref Requirement Number</b>	<b>Recommendations or other supporting information:</b>
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**Section B: All other recommendations and supporting information: N/A**

## VI. CONTACTS

**Post-Implementation Contact(s):** Contact your Contracting Officer's Representative (COR).

## VII. FUNDING

### **Section A: For Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs):**

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**ATTACHMENTS: 0**

# Medicare Claims Processing Manual

## Chapter 1 - General Billing Requirements

### *Table of Contents* *(Rev.13826; Issued:06-11-2026)*

#### *Transmittals for Chapter 1*

*210 – Medicare Beneficiary Date of Death- Background*

*210.1 – How to Correct Incorrect Dates in Medicare Records*

*210.1.1 – Healthcare Provider Errors*

*210.1.2 – Date of Death Submitted by Family Member or Authorized Agent*

*210.1.3 – Social Security Administration (SSA) or Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) Errors*

## **210 – Medicare Beneficiary Date of Death - Background**

**(Rev.13826; Issued: 06-11-2026; Effective:07-13-2026; Implementation: 07-13-2026)**

*A Medicare beneficiary's date of death is available in the Master Beneficiary Summary File and the Vital Status File. For beneficiaries that decess during an inpatient or skilled nursing facility stay, date of death is also available on the MedPAR file.*

*CMS collects death data from multiple sources. The main sources CMS uses to develop its date of death information are:*

- *Medicare claims data from the Common Working File (CWF)*
- *Online date of death submitted by family members or authorized agents*
- *Benefit information used to administer the Medicare program collected from the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) and the Social Security Administration*

### **210.1 How to Correct Incorrect Dates of Death in Medicare Records**

**(Rev.13826; Issued: 06-11-2026; Effective:07-13-2026; Implementation: 07-13-2026)**

*Errors can happen when any of the above sources submit wrong information or are slow to update their records. Medicare records may incorrectly indicate that a patient has died or may list an incorrect date of death. When this occurs, Medicare won't process claims for reimbursement until the error is corrected. This manual explains common causes of incorrect dates of death and the steps providers should take to resolve them.*

#### **210.1.1 Health Care Provider Claims Errors**

**(Rev.13826; Issued: 06-11-2026; Effective:07-13-2026; Implementation: 07-13-2026)**

*If a Part A provider submits a claim that incorrectly reports a date of death, the provider can submit a claim adjustment to correct the information.*

##### **Scenario 1: Patient is Alive**

*Submit a claim adjustment to remove the date of death from the claim:*

- *Change the discharge status from codes "20," "40," "41," or "42" (all indicate the patient has expired) to the appropriate discharge status code that reflects where the patient was discharged and indicates the patient is alive*
- *Remove occurrence code (OC) 55 and the associated date of death from the claim*

##### **Scenario 2: Patient is Deceased, but Date of Death is Incorrect**

*Submit a claim adjustment to correct the date of death:*

- *Keep the discharge status as expired*
- *Update occurrence code (OC) 55 with the correct date of death*
- *Review Medicare eligibility information for hospice, home health, hospital, or skilled nursing facility end dates that align with the incorrect date of death to help identify the source of the error*

#### **210.1.2 Date of Death Submitted by Family Member or Authorized Agent**

**(Rev.13826; Issued: 06-11-2026; Effective:07-13-2026; Implementation: 07-13-2026)**

*If a family member or authorized agent (i.e., funeral director) reports an incorrect date of death, the person or authorized agent responsible for reporting and the agency maintaining the patient's eligibility record must correct the information before Medicare eligibility can be updated.*

***210.1.3 Social Security Administration (SSA) or Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) Errors  
(Rev.13826; Issued: 06-11-2026; Effective:07-13-2026; Implementation: 07-13-2026)***

*If SSA or RRB records contain an incorrect date of death, the agency responsible for maintaining the patient's eligibility record must correct the information before Medicare eligibility can be updated.*

*- SSA or RRB can remove a date of death if the patient is alive*

*- SSA or RRB can correct an incorrect date of death when the patient, family member, or authorized representative notifies the appropriate agency and provides required documentation*