

**Medicare Administrative Contractor Award
for Jurisdiction 10 Part A/Part B
(J10 A/B MAC)**

-- CAHABA GOVERNMENT BENEFIT ADMINISTRATORS, LLC --

Background Sheet

January 2009

- On January 7, 2009 the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that Cahaba Government Benefit Administrators, LLC (Cahaba GBA) has been awarded the contract for the combined administration of Part A and Part B Medicare fee-for-service claims in Jurisdiction 10 (J10) comprised of Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee.
- The award of the J10 Part A/Part B Medicare Administrative Contractor (A/B MAC) contract is another step toward improved service to providers, physicians and practitioners as well as greater administrative efficiency and effectiveness for fee-for-service Medicare.
- This award is indicative of the efforts underway to significantly reengineer the Medicare claims administration process and change from the “business as usual” of the past 40 years.

Background

- Section 1874A of the Social Security Act, as added by Section 911 of the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA) requires the Secretary to take needed steps by 2011 to implement Medicare Contracting Reform and thereby replace all current intermediaries and carriers with MACs through full and open competition as regulated under federal contracting statutes.
- The new MACs are being selected through full and open competitions, and will lead to more efficiency and greater accountability of our fee-for-service contractors in the new environment.
- CMS completed selection activities for the 15 A/B MACs by the end of calendar year 2008 and made award in January 2009.
- The geographical jurisdictions for the MACs were made public on February 22, 2005. The jurisdictions are distinct geographically and non-overlapping.
- When contracting reform is fully implemented, beneficiaries and providers will have separate single points of contact with the Medicare program that will allow for higher quality services to each group.

- In accordance with section 1874A(b)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act, MAC contracts will have to be recompeted no less frequently than once every 5 years.

The J10 A/B MAC Award

- On August 31, 2007, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the solicitations for the jurisdictions included in Cycle Two. After careful evaluation that weighed technical qualifications and past performance and considered cost and other factors, CMS established the competitive range. Of those in the competitive range, CMS is awarding the J10 A/B MAC contract to Cahaba GBA whose proposal offered the best overall value to the government.
- The J10 A/B MAC contract is a cost-plus-award-fee contract.
- The J10 A/B MAC will be working with other functional contractors with responsibility for specific administrative activities.
- CMS has significant experience overseeing the implementation of new claims processing contracts and will work to ensure that the hospitals and health care providers, physicians, and the beneficiaries who receive service from the current fiscal intermediaries and carriers in this jurisdiction experience a smooth transition to the new MAC.

Information Concerning the J10 A/B MAC

- J10 is comprised of Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee.
- The J10 A/B MAC contract has a total estimated value of approximately \$335 million over five years.
- The following are the current fiscal intermediaries (FIs) and carriers administering the program in J10 and the states that they serve:
 - Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia, Inc. (FI for Georgia)
 - Cahaba GBA (FI and carrier for Alabama; carrier for Georgia)
 - CIGNA Government Services (carrier for Tennessee)
 - Riverbend Government Benefits Administrator (FI for Tennessee)
 - Wisconsin Physicians Service Insurance Corporation (FI for some providers in Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee)
- Cahaba GBA will implement the J10 A/B MAC by taking over the work from the FIs and carriers on an incremental basis over the next several months.
- Cahaba GBA will be reaching out to providers and state medical associations to provide education and information about the implementation. For more details, visit Cahaba GBA's website at <https://www.cahabagba.com/>.
- Cahaba GBA will have the following subcontractors:

- Allison Payment Systems, LLC will provide printing and mail services;
 - Emdeon Business Services will provide intelligent character recognition and data entry services;
 - Mayer Hoffman McCann will conduct SAS 70 and annual compliance audits; and
 - Dr. James E. Strong will assist the Contractor Medical Director.
- Cahaba GBA's operations are headquartered in Birmingham AL.
- As of July 2007, approximately 2,864,390 Medicare Fee-for-Service beneficiaries are located in this jurisdiction
- As of July 2007, approximately 73,824 physicians and other medical professionals provided services in this jurisdiction.
- As of December 2007, approximately 458 Medicare hospitals are located in this jurisdiction.
- As of September 2007, approximately 7.2% of the national Medicare claims workload is in this jurisdiction.
- With the award of the contract, one contractor will be performing the work that had been distributed among five. In general, this consolidation of claims administration activities results in an overall reduction in the number of staff that the A/B MAC will need to employ, in comparison to the current FIs and carriers, resulting in reduced costs.