

PECOS Information from VGM - Updated 11/6/09

Because of the high incident of rejections DME providers have seen for phase one CMS has begun to implement actions to reduce these errors:

1. CMS will add NPIs on all physicians & non-physician practitioners that are not in PECOS (The NPI is one of the matching criteria used in implementing the edits) NO DATE SET FOR THIS
2. CMS will add a national file on the Internet of eligible Medicare physicians & non-physician practitioners (PRIOR to the implementation of phase 2) NO DATE GIVEN
3. CMS will issue instructions (Prior to implementation of phase 2) that will assist Medicare contractors in enrolling licensed residents, Department of Veterans Affairs physicians & Public Health Service physicians. ** they have ordered DMEPOS but have not had to enroll because they are not eligible for Medicare payment in the past** --- These instructions will state that teaching physician should be reported as the ordering/referring physician in situations where a resident orders DMEPOS but is not licensed by the State and cannot enroll in Medicare.

DMEPOS SUPPLIERS ----- POINTS to REMEMBER:

1. January 4, 2010 – Check to make sure the physician is enrolled
2. Report ordering/referring physicians name in ALL CAPS on electronic claims
3. DO NOT USE:
 - (a) nick names – only legal name (edits includes first initial of first name) ROBERT no “BOB”
 - (b) commas, periods, or apostrophes “O’Malley should be OMALLEY”
 - (c) credentials in a name field such as DR JOHN

AT this point there is no plan to delay but we need to make sure we watch our rejections and let VGM, AAH, or your state association know if the numbers of rejections do not decrease significantly.

<http://www.medicare.gov/Physician/Search/chooseprovider.asp>

This web site is where the provider will be able to look up physicians to see if they are enrolled in the Medicare program. If they are on this site and you still receive warnings this means you need to check and make sure you are billing correctly. If you are billing correctly then the physician needs to update their enrollment.

Go to find a provider then find a physician then click find by name & it does not matter if you do P or NP just to any and same for gender and physicians specialty. If the physician is on this site you can assume they are in PECOS – CMS is updating the NPPES files so the NPIs will go into PECOS –when???

ABNs will not be effective since these are rejected claims but if you receive a denial and physician then enrolls you will be able to back bill once he/she is enrolled.

PHYSICIANS – If not enrolled or not enrolled in past 5 years you may:

Enroll using internet based PECOS at:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/04_InternetbasedPECOS.asp the enrollment process is lengthy and you may want to view the PDF file showing the actual screen pages – this will make it easier for you to complete the form when you go on. The best time is early AM because the site is a little slow due to high increase in usage.

or you can enroll by filling out the appropriate paper Medicare provider enrollment at:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicareProviderSupEnroll>

Dentist – Department of Veteran Affairs or the Public Health Service need to enroll – residents also need to enroll if they have a license – If the resident does not have a license they do not have to enroll but the TEACHING PHYSICIAN's NPI is to be reported in a claim as the ordering/referring provider.

Any questions the physician can contact their local ABMAC (Medicare contractor) in their state.

USER ID and PIN ---- If you do not have a user ID or pin you can call the NPPES (NPI system)

1-800-465-3203 (NPI Toll-Free) 1-800-692-2326 (NPI TTY)

<https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/Welcome.do>

Below is a tool that physicians can use to verify if they are enrolled in PECOS. Again, this is a physician tool but thought it might be good to get out so that suppliers could provide it to a physician's office if necessary. It is the expectation of CMS that the individual provider validate his/her own status in the PECOS system by accessing Internet-based PECOS at:

<https://pecos.cms.hhs.gov/pecos/login.do>.

DMEPOS providers & (if your physicians need any assistance) you can call me at:

Peggy Walker, RN --800-401-3643

Or call VGM 800 642 6065 and ask for John, Alan or Jamie