

Update on Medicare Administrative

BC Legal In accordance with the timeline originally set forth by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), all of the jurisdictional awards for the Part A/ Part B Medicare Administrative Contractors (MAC) have been made. Furthermore, many of these new MACs have already begun processing the claims within their jurisdictions.

The fifteen MAC A/B Jurisdictions have been awarded as follows: See table 1



A/B:	States Included:	Awarded To:	Expected Date of Full Implementation:
1	American Samoa, California, Guam, Hawaii, Nevada, Northern Mariana Islands	Palmetto GBA	September 2008
2	Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington	National Heritage Insurance Corporation	December 2008
3	Arizona, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming	Noridian Administrative Services	March 2007
4	Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas	Trailblazer Health Enterprises	June 2008
5	Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska	Wisconsin Physician Services	June 2008
6	Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin	Noridian Administrative Services	Currently being protested
7	Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi	Pinnacle Business Solutions, Inc.	Corrective action ordered
8	Indiana, Michigan	National Government Services	No later than March 2010
9	Florida, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands	First Coast Service Options, Inc.	March 2009
10	Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee	Cahaba Government Benefit Administrators	September 2009
11	North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia	Palmetto GBA	Currently being protested
12	Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania	Highmark Medicare Services	December 2008
13	Connecticut, New York	National Government Services	November 2008
14	Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont	National Heritage Insurance Corporation	May 2009
15	Kentucky, Ohio	Highmark Medicare Services	No later than March 2010

Table 1

Contractors (MAC) Awards from CMS

In addition, CMS recently awarded the Home Health and Hospice (HH&H) Administration to existing A/B Jurisdiction MACs rather than awarding separate contracts. The workload related to the four HH&H Jurisdictions will be integrated into certain A/B Jurisdictions as follows: See table 2

to provide for the transition from the fiscal intermediaries and carriers to the new MAC system. For those A/B Jurisdictions already fully operational, the transition period has already been completed. However, to the extent a provider's assigned A/B Jurisdiction is in transition, the provider should engage in certain

HH&H:	States Included:	Awarded To:	Date of Award:
A	Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont	National Heritage Insurance Corporation (A/B Jurisdiction 14)	November 19, 2008
B	Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming	Highmark Medicare Services, Inc. (A/B Jurisdiction 15)	January 7, 2009
C	Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas	Palmetto Government Benefits Administrator, LLC (A/B Jurisdiction 11)	January 7, 2009
D	Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, California, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Northern Mariana Islands, Oregon, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Wisconsin, Washington	Noridian Administrative Services, LLC (A/B Jurisdiction 6)	January 7, 2009

Table 2

CMS had previously awarded the Durable Medical Equipment (DME) MAC contracts. CMS maintained separate contracts for DME because of the complex coverage and payment issues involved with DME benefits. Further, formation of four jurisdictions for DME contracts allows for the consolidation of administration sought through the implementation of these changes. Those four jurisdictions were fashioned following the breakdowns of the A/B Jurisdictions, allowing each A/B MAC to work with one particular DME MAC. Each of the awarded DME MAC contracts is now fully operational.

Those MAC contracts were awarded and implemented as follows: See table 3 on next page

Aside from the awards of MAC contracts, which are under review due to protests being filed, the MACs have been and con-

tinued to ensure as smooth a transition as possible.


Once the MAC for the A/B Jurisdiction is awarded, the provider should begin to monitor the website of that MAC for transition information. The MAC will have a new website with information regarding the transition period, including news and updates, newsletters, and information on meetings and conference calls. To the extent the assigned MAC is not the provider's current fiscal intermediary or carrier and the provider is currently enrolled in Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), CMS will require each provider to complete a new EFT agreement for the new MAC. As this form controls how payments are made, it is important to have this completed and submitted with enough time for processing prior to the implementation date for the new MAC. In addition to gathering information regarding the newly assigned MAC, the provider should continue to monitor the current fiscal interme-

DME:	States Included:	Awarded To:	Fully Operational:
A	Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont	National Heritage Insurance Corporation	July 1, 2006
B	Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin	AdminaStar Federal, Inc.	July 1, 2006
C	Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, U.S. Virgin Islands, Virginia, West Virginia	CIGNA Government Services	June 1, 2007
D	Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, California, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Northern Mariana Islands, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming	Noridian Administrative Services	September 30, 2006

diary and carrier with regard to payment submission and open claims.

The new MAC may also require the provider to submit a new Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Trading Partner Agreement. Each provider should be aware of what the requirements are regarding EDI for its MAC. Further, to the extent the provider utilizes certain software, clearinghouses, or trading partners, the provider must ensure that all connections are operational and all affiliates are prepared for the transition to the MAC.

As each MAC may differ slightly, it is important for each

provider to be alert and vigilant with regard to the requirements of its assigned MAC. While growing pains are to be expected, with proper planning, the provider should be able to navigate the transition to the MAC without much difficulty. 

Anne E. Jorgensen, Esq. Attorney at Law, Fox Rothschild LLP. As a member of Fox Rothschild firm's Health Law Group, Anne practices in the area of health law, including the representation of physician practices and in providing advice to physicians in employment and other contract negotiations.
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