

DME Medicare News

DMERC Region A Service Office ❖ P. O. Box 6800 ❖ Wilkes-Barre, PA 18773-6800

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Urgent Notice to Florida, Massachusetts, New York, and Texas Suppliers

Change in Date of Transition to DME Regional Carriers

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HCFA continues to closely monitor the durable medical equipment regional carriers and their pending claims workloads. Because of continuing concerns about pending workloads, in March we adjusted the transfer schedule for suppliers in New York to May 1, 1994, and for suppliers in Texas and Massachusetts to June 1, 1994. The transfer date for suppliers in Florida remained unchanged at May 1, 1994.

HCFA strongly encourages suppliers in Florida, New York, Massachusetts, and Texas to accelerate their preparation to bill the regional carriers.

The DME Region A and Region C carriers, The Travelers and Palmetto Government Benefits Administrators, respectively, are reducing their pending workloads. However, to allow time for greater increases in claims processing productivity and to assure that suppliers are serviced appropriately, we are revising the transfer schedule for the regional carriers as follows:

The Region A "DME Medicare News" is published by The Travelers Government Operations DMERC Professional Relations Unit for DMEPOS suppliers in Region A. For further information on this publication, please contact:



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Region A - The Travelers

New York

Suppliers in New York will be transferred according to carrier jurisdiction to minimize any potential for transition problems. The transfer dates are:

- Suppliers billing Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Western New York, Inc. will transfer on May 1, 1994.
- Suppliers billing Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield and Group Health Incorporated will transfer on June 1, 1994.

Massachusetts

- The transfer date for suppliers in Massachusetts has been extended to July 1, 1994.

Region C - Palmetto Government Benefits Administrators

Suppliers in Florida and Texas have the option of moving to the regional carrier as previously scheduled in May or June, as appropriate, or continue to bill the local carriers.

Florida

- The transfer date for suppliers in Florida has been extended to June 1, 1994.

Texas

- The transfer date for suppliers in Texas has been extended to July 1, 1994.

HCFA strongly encourages suppliers in Florida, Massachusetts, New York, and Texas to accelerate their preparation to bill the regional carriers. Suppliers may not bill both the local carrier and the regional carrier.

Railroad Board Annuitant Claims

Suppliers continuing to bill the local carriers will continue to submit claims for Railroad annuitants to The Travelers.

Therapeutic Shoes

Suppliers continuing to bill the local carriers will continue to submit claims for therapeutic shoes to The Travelers.

New Supplier Number Applications

Some DMEPOS and PEN suppliers are applying for new supplier numbers at Florida, Massachusetts, Texas, and New York. As you know, the local carriers in these states are working towards completing their responsibilities in the DMEPOS area, and will not accept new suppliers. Consequently, effective immediately, all supplier number *requests in process* at these local carriers will be denied. All suppliers who have *applied for, or obtained, local carrier supplier numbers since April 1* from these local carriers must contact the National Supplier Clearinghouse (NSC) to apply for an NSC supplier billing number. Suppliers having billing questions should contact the regional carriers for assistance.

After receiving their new supplier billing number from the National Supplier Clearinghouse:

- Those suppliers submitting paper claims are to begin *immediately* submitting claims to the appropriate regional carrier.
- Those suppliers who have begun submitting claims electronically to the local carriers can do so *only until May 15, 1994*. They need to contact immediately the appropriate regional carrier to assure that their billing format meets the requirements of the regional carrier.

We appreciate your patience and apologize for any inconvenience these delays have caused. HCFA is committed to assuring that the transfers are completed with minimal disruption to the suppliers. To that end, HCFA continues to monitor the progress of the regional carriers, and has implemented changes that will further increase carrier productivity.

HCFA urges all suppliers who have not transferred to ready themselves for the upcoming transfers. Those suppliers billing electronically should begin contacting the regional carriers so that they may be scheduled for and complete testing before the appropriate transfer dates.

Revised Post-Transition Workshops

The Travelers Region A DMERC is holding Post-Transition Workshops throughout Region A. The workshop schedules are shown below.

Two workshops will be held per day. For the morning sessions, Registration will be at 7:30 A.M., and the Presentation will be held from 8:00 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. For the afternoon sessions, Registration will be at 12:30 P.M., and the Presentation will be held from 1:00 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.

The workshops address issues suppliers have encountered in transitioning from local to regional carriers. Each workshop features a discussion on topics such as Electronic Media Claims, Claims Submission (including examples) and Medical Policy, along with a Questions and Answers session. Please bring the following materials to the workshop: DMERC Region A *Supplier Manual*, HCFA-1500 Form, National Supplier Clearinghouse Number, and writing materials.

The Post-Transition Workshops for suppliers billing Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Western New York, Inc., remain as previously scheduled:					
State	City	Meeting Site		Date of Seminar	Date of Transition
NY	Albany	Desmond Hotel, 660 Albany Shaker Road	(518) 869-8100	07/18/94	05/01/94
	Syracuse	Quality Inn North, 1308 Buckley Road	(315) 451-1212	07/20/94	
	Buffalo	Raddison Hotel, 4243 Genesee Street	(716) 634-2300	07/25/94	
	Elmira	Holiday Inn (Downtown Elmira), East Water Street	(607) 734-4211	07/27/94	
The Post-Transition Workshops for suppliers billing Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield and Group Health Incorporated have been rescheduled as follows:					
State	City	Meeting Site		Date of Seminar	Date of Transition
NY	Jamaica	Holiday Inn, 144-02 135 Avenue	(718) 659-0200	09/12/94	06/01/94
	Jamaica	Holiday Inn, 144-02 135 Avenue	(718) 659-0200	09/14/94	
The Post-Transition Workshops for suppliers billing Massachusetts have been rescheduled as follows:					
State	City	Meeting Site		Date of Seminar	Date of Transition
MA	Boston	Tremont House Hotel, 275 Tremont Street	(617) 426-1400	10/10/94	07/01/94
	Springfield	Marriott Hotel, Boland Way & Columbus Avenue	(413) 781-7111	10/12/94	

Due to the date changes for the New York and Massachusetts workshops, a new registration form must be submitted. Registration forms will be available in the June edition of *DME Medicare News*.