

DME Medicare News

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

No. 7, Special Edition

TheTravelers

March, 1994

Urgent Notice To New York and Massachusetts Suppliers

Change in Transition Date to DME Regional Carrier

The transition dates for New York and Massachusetts suppliers have been changed to allow for a smoother overall transition. The transition dates have been extended to May 1, 1994 for New York and June 1, 1994 for Massachusetts.

Transfer Dates

Because many suppliers may have already made systems and other changes, suppliers billing paper claims or EMC in New York and Massachusetts have the option of billing the Region A DMERC beginning on March 1, as scheduled, or continuing to bill their local New York and Massachusetts carriers until the new transition date, May 1 or June 1 respectively. Suppliers that bill the Region A DMERC beginning March 1 must follow DMERC processing guidelines (i.e., new DMERC certificates of medical necessity must be used when required, new DMERC procedure codes must be used, and claims submitted electronically must be in the National Standard Format). Suppliers that continue to bill the New York and Massachusetts carriers should continue to bill as they have in the past.

RRB Annuitant Claims

Suppliers not billing the Region A DMERC, May or June respectively, will continue to submit RRB claims to The Travelers RRB office. This will prevent situations that require suppliers to submit Medicare DMEPOS claims to New York and Massachusetts carriers, and RRB annuitant claims to the appropriate regional carrier, based on beneficiary residence.

Therapeutic Shoes

Suppliers not billing the Region A DMERC until May or June will continue to submit therapeutic shoes claims to The Travelers Insurance Group, Richmond, VA.

Other Transition Changes

Other DMERC transition changes include Texas and Florida:

- Texas transition date is changed to May 1
- Florida transition date is changed to June 1

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:

TheTravelers

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Surgical Dressings, And Splints, Casts, And Other Devices Used For Reductions Of Fractures And Dislocations

Surgical dressings are limited to primary and secondary dressings required for the treatment of a wound caused by, or treated by, a surgical procedure that has been performed by a physician or other health care professional to the extent permissible under State law. In addition, surgical dressings required after debridement of a wound are also covered, irrespective of the type of debridement, as long as the debridement was reasonable and necessary and was performed by a health care professional who was acting within the scope of his or her legal authority when performing this function. Surgical dressings are covered for as long as they are medically necessary.

Primary dressings are therapeutic or protective coverings applied directly to wounds or lesions either on the skin or caused by an opening to the skin. Secondary dressing materials that serve a therapeutic or protective function and that are needed to secure a primary dressing, are also covered. Items such as adhesive tape, roll gauze, bandages, and disposable compression material are examples of secondary dressings.

Elastic stockings, support hose, foot coverings, leotards, knee supports, surgical leggings, gauntlets, and pressure garments for the arms and hands are examples of items that are not ordinarily covered as surgical dressings. Some items, such as transparent film, may be used as a primary or secondary dressing.

If a physician, certified nurse midwife, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or clinical nurse specialist applies surgical dressings as part of a professional service that is billed to Medicare, the surgical dressings are considered incident to the professional services of the health care practitioner. (See §§ 2050.1, 2154, 2156, 2158, and 2160.) When surgical dressings are not covered incident to the services of a health care practitioner and are obtained by the patient from a supplier (e.g., a drugstore, physician, or other health care practitioner that qualifies as a supplier) on an order from a physician or other health care professional authorized under State law or regulation to make such an order, the surgical dressings are covered separately under Part B.

Post-Transition Workshops

The Travelers Region A DMERC is holding Post-Transition Workshops throughout Region A. A workshop schedule, including the dates and locations, is shown on the following page. 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 between 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 between 1:00 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Reservations are required. Complete the form on the next page. Return the form by FAX, or mail to the address shown. For assistance, call our Supplier Toll-Free Number at (800) 842-2563.

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
- Writing Materials

Post-Transition Workshop Registration Form

NAME: _____

REPRESENTING: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ NSC NUMBER (required to attend) _____

CHECK THE SUPPLIER TYPE: DME O&P OXYGEN PEN OTHER

SPECIALTY: _____

WORKSHOP DATE AND LOCATION: _____

SESSION: A.M. P.M. NUMBER ATTENDING: _____ (maximum 4)

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND MAIL OR FAX TO:

MAIL TO: THE TRAVELERS REGION A DMERC
P. O. Box 6800
WILKES-BARRE, PA 18701
ATTN: MARIANNE LOMBARDO

FAX TO: PROFESSIONAL RELATIONS
(717) 820-5750
ATTN: MARIANNE LOMBARDO



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Revised Workshop Schedule

The Region A DMERC Post-Transition Workshops have been rescheduled for New York and Massachusetts due to the change in transition dates for those states. A revised schedule appears below. Due to the date and location changes, you must submit a new registration form to attend one of the following sessions.

State	City	Meeting Site		Date of Seminar	Date of Transition
NY	Jamaica	Holiday Inn, 144-02 135 Avenue	(718) 659-0200	07/11/94	05/01/94
	Jamaica	Holiday Inn, 144-02 135 Avenue	(718) 659-0200	07/13/94	
	Albany	Desmond Hotel, 660 Albany Shaker Road	(518) 869-8100	07/18/94	
	Syracuse	Quality Inn North, 1308 Buckley Road	(315) 451-1212	07/20/94	
	Buffalo	Raddison Hotel, 4243 Genesee Street	(716) 634-2300	07/27/94	
	Elmira	Holiday Inn (Downtown Elmira), East Water Street	(607) 734-4211	07/27/94	
MA	Boston	Tremont House Hotel, 275 Tremont Street	(617) 426-1400	08/01/94	06/01/94
	Springfield	Marriott Hotel, Boland Way & Columbus Avenue	(413) 781-7111	08/03/94	

The DMERC Region A Professional Relations staff will also be presenting Prosthetics and Orthotics workshops in June. Details will be forthcoming.