MLN Matters®
Information for Medicare Fee-for-Service Health Care Professionals

News Flash – The revised Understanding the Remittance Advice (RA) for Professional Providers Web-Based Training (WBT), has been made available by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Medicare Learning Network (MLN). Available for Continuing Education credit, this course provides instructions to help fee-for-service Medicare providers and their billing staffs interpret the RA received from Medicare and reconcile it against submitted claims. It additionally provides guidance on how to read Electronic Remittance Advices (ERAs) and Standard Paper Remittance Advices (SPRs), as well as information for balancing an RA. This course also presents an overview of software that Medicare provides free to providers in order to view ERAs. This training can be accessed by visiting ***http://www.cms.gov/MLNgeninfo/*** and scrolling to the "Related Links Inside CMS" page section. Within these links, select Web Based Training (WBT) Modules and then Understanding the Remittance Advice for Professional Providers from the list of training courses provided.

MLN Matters® Number: MM6854

Related Change Request (CR) #: 6854

Related CR Release Date: March 26, 2010

Effective Date: June 28, 2010

Related CR Transmittal #: R332PI

Implementation Date: June 28, 2010

Reporting Changes in Surety Bonds

Provider Types Affected

Suppliers of durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics and supplies (DMEPOS) submitting claims to Medicare DME Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries are impacted by this issue.

Provider Action Needed

This article is based on Change Request (CR) 6854 which clarifies the situations in which certain DMEPOS surety bond changes must be reported to the National Supplier Clearinghouse (NSC). Be certain to comply with these changes.

Background

CR 6854 outlines scenarios in which suppliers of DMEPOS are required to report certain surety bond changes to the NSC.

Disclaimer
This article was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This article may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents.

A DMEPOS supplier must submit an addendum to the existing bond (or, if the supplier prefers, a new bond) to the NSC in the following instances: (1) a change in bond terms, (2) a change in the bond amount, or (3) a location on a bond covering multiple non-chain locations is being added or deleted.
In addition, pursuant to 42 CFR 424.57(d)(6)(iv), (at *http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr_2002/octqtr/pdf/42cfr424.57.pdf* on the Internet) the surety must notify the NSC if there is a lapse in the surety's coverage of the DMEPOS supplier. This can be done via letter, fax, or e-mail to the NSC; the appropriate addresses can be found on the NSC's Web site at *NSC Contact Information* on the Internet.

Additional Information

If you have questions, please contact the NSC at (866) 238-9652 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. EST to reach a customer service representative. The official instruction, CR6854, issued to your Medicare MAC regarding this change may be viewed at *http://www.cms.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R332PI.pdf* on the CMS website.

Medicare's surety bond requirements are summarized in detail in article MM6392 at *http://www.cms.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM6392.pdf* on the CMS website.

To review 42 CFR 424.57 you may go to *http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr_2002/octqtr/pdf/42cfr424.57.pdf* on the Internet.

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