

**MOA MEMBERS
FROM SUE A. WEINGARTNER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OCTOBER 20, 2010**

MEDICARE ENROLLMENT/PECOS UPDATE

The following is forwarded from the AOA for your information:

Doctors who receive payments for treating Medicare beneficiaries are enrolled in Medicare (regardless of whether they are participating or non-par).

PECOS is a database of doctors who have enrolled or re-enrolled in Medicare since November 2003. Medicare has established policies that effectively require doctors to have their Medicare enrollment record in the PECOS database.

If the doctor's enrollment record is not in the PECOS database (that is, if she/he started seeing Medicare patients before 2003), then she/he must re-enroll in Medicare to create an enrollment record in the PECOS database.

There are 2 ways to enroll/re-enroll in Medicare: On paper (CMS-855 forms) or online (using what's called Internet-based PECOS).

Re-enrolling on paper takes about 60 days. Re-enrolling online takes about 45 days.

AOA strongly encourages doctors to review CMS guidance and tips prior to submitting an enrollment application.

AOA strongly encourages doctors to contact their local Medicare Part B contractor/carrier if they have any questions about enrollment prior to submitting an enrollment application,

AOA recommends re-enrolling online because it's faster and, like using tax preparation software, helps correct errors in advance.

Note that you might not receive any Medicare payments until the application is approved!

In January 2011, doctors who do not have their NPI in their Medicare enrollment record will not be paid.

Doctors who are in PECOS can update their enrollment record to add the NPI.

Doctors who are not in PECOS must re-enroll in Medicare to add the NPI to their enrollment record.

Thus, all doctors who have an NPI in their enrollment records should also be in the PECOS enrollment database.

Since July 2010, CMS has required all Medicare orders and referrals to be made by doctors who have a complete enrollment record in PECOS. However, CMS has not started to reject or deny claims that do not comply.

AOA believes that CMS will begin rejecting noncompliant claims in January.

A small number of doctors who do not receive payments for treating Medicare beneficiaries might still need to submit a simplified Medicare enrollment application to make sure their orders/referrals are covered.

For the Medicare EHR incentives beginning in 2011, CMS requires the doctor to have a complete enrollment record in PECOS to receive any bonus payment.

Thus, it's imperative that optometrists who treat Medicare patients have a complete (with NPI) enrollment record in PECOS.

To learn more about Medicare enrollment, start here:

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

Here is the latest information from CMS:

Don't wait!

1. Act now to verify that you have an enrollment record in PECOS.
2. If you do not have an enrollment record in PECOS, establish your enrollment record now.

If you have submitted a Medicare enrollment application within the last 90 days, and your enrollment application has been accepted for processing by the carrier or A/B MAC, you need not take any additional actions based on this listserv message. (You will be contacted by your carrier or A/B MAC if additional information is needed.)

How can I find out if I have an enrollment record in PECOS? Choose one of the following:

1. Use Internet-based PECOS to look for your PECOS enrollment record. (You will need to first set up your access to Internet-based PECOS.) Go to [Verify PECOS Record](#) for more information. If no record is displayed, you do not have an enrollment record in PECOS.
2. Check the Ordering Referring Report on the CMS website. If you are of a specialty permitted to order and refer and you are on that report, you have a current enrollment record in PECOS. Go to [Ordering and Referring Report](#).
3. Contact your designated Medicare enrollment contractor and ask if you have an enrollment record in PECOS. Go to [Contractor List](#) for contact information.

I don't have an enrollment record. What should I do?

Internet-based PECOS is the fastest and most efficient way to submit your enrollment application. For instructions, see [Basics of Internet-based PECOS for Physicians and Non-Physician Practitioners](#). If you encounter problems or have questions as you navigate the system, there is [help available](#).