

# MEDICARE PROVIDER ENROLLMENT PECOS DEADLINE NOW JULY 6, 2010

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## THE CHANGES JUST KEEP ON COMING!

Newby Consulting, Inc. previously advised all physicians and nonphysician providers that they needed to verify they were in Medicare's Provider Enrollment Chain Ownership System (PECOS). In all of our 2010 seminars, we urged physicians and providers not to wait to verify their enrollment. This article is to reemphasize the urgency of ensuring you are in PECOS as the effective has changed yet again!

Initially physicians and nonphysician providers ordering any durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies had to be enrolled in PECOS effective January 4, 2010. In December 2009, CMS extended this deadline for supplier claim denials for services ordered by physicians/providers who were not enrolled in PECOS until April 5, 2010. The deadline was then extended to January 3, 2011 and CMS added denials of claims for all other services that are ordered or referred, including diagnostic tests, if the referring/ordering provider was not enrolled in PECOS.

That last little addition had major impact on physicians/providers. Initially, the need to be in PECOS would only affect DMEPOS claims. With this change, claims for all services requiring an ordering or referring physician/provider would be rejected if that physician/provider was not in PECOS. Still realizing that they had until January 3, 2011, many physicians and providers decided nothing had to be done immediately and put the investigation of whether they were in PECOS on the back burner.

Then Congress passed and President Obama signed the Affordable Care Act and being in PECOS is now an urgent matter. **The NEW deadline is July 6, 2010!!!**

In the May 5, 2010 *Federal Register*, CMS published an Interim Final Rule with Comment Period. Based on changes required by the Affordable Care Act, all physicians and nonphysician providers who order any service (including diagnostic tests) must be enrolled in PECOS by July 1, 2010. Beginning July 6, 2010 claims for **all services ordered or referred by a physician/provider will be denied if the ordering/referring physician is not in PECOS. This includes your professional claims!**

If you enrolled in Medicare or updated your Medicare enrollment information within the past six (6) years, your Medicare enrollment information should already be in PECOS. If you enrolled more than six (6) years ago and have not submitted any updates to your Medicare enrollment information, you need to update your Medicare enrollment information **NOW** and depending on how long your physicians has been a Medicare provider, may actually need to **revalidate** your provider information.

CMS has compiled a list of providers who are in PECOS which can be accessed on their web site. Newby Consulting, Inc. strongly urges you go to this list to confirm each of your physicians/providers are in PECOS. If your physician/provider is on the list of providers, this means he/she is in PECOS and does not need to complete a new CMS-855I enrollment form. The list can be found at the following web site: <http://www.cms.gov/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/Downloads/OrderingReferringReport.pdf>

## ACT QUICKLY

If you access the list on the CMS web site and find your physician/provider is not listed, you must update his/her enrollment with Medicare. In order to update the information, a CMS-855I enrollment application must be completed with all the information necessary to initially enroll in Medicare. If you have a separate NPI (type 2) for your organization, the physician/provider will also have to complete a CMS-855R to reassign his/her benefits to the organization/group. This will get the provider or supplier into PECOS and will ensure that their enrollment information is current.

Physicians/providers can revalidate their enrollment via Internet-based PECOS or they can fill out the appropriate paper CMS-855I and if needed the CMS-855R Medicare provider enrollment forms and mail them to the appropriate enrollment contractor.

Instructions on Internet-based PECOS can be found on the CMS website at [http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/04\\_InternetbasedPECOS.asp#TopOfPage](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/04_InternetbasedPECOS.asp#TopOfPage)