



CMS Awards National Government Services (NGS) the MAC Contract for Jurisdiction 13 (NY & CT)

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced on Friday that National Government Services (NGS) has been awarded a contract to administer Medicare Part A and Medicare Part B claims in the states of New York and Connecticut. The transition to NGS from the current carriers and fiscal intermediaries with jurisdiction in those areas is expected to be completed by November 2008. For Part B claims, NGS (which includes Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield) will replace the current claims processors – Upstate Medicare Division (UMD) and Group Health Incorporated (GHI) in New York, and First Coast in Connecticut.

CMS intends to award 15 MAC contracts by 2011. MACs will replace the numerous carriers and fiscal intermediaries that currently process Medicare Part A and Part B claims. MAC contracts will be competitively re-bid at least every five years.

To date, the following MAC contracts have been announced:

Jurisdiction	MAC	States	Approximate Start Dates
J1	Palmetto GBA	California, Hawaii, Nevada, American Samoa, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands	August – Sept 2008
J3	Noridian	Arizona, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming	March 2007
J4	Trailblazer	Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas	March – June 2008
J5	WPS	Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska	Dec 2007 – June 2008
J12	Highmark	Delaware, DC, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania	End of 2008
J13	NGS	Connecticut, New York	November 2008

Providers located in areas that are being transitioned from a carrier/fiscal intermediary to a new MAC will need to closely monitor their payors’ web sites and other communication for instructions as the transition progresses. Because MACs may be taking responsibility for claims processing from multiple carriers and FIs, providers should expect to see changes in local coverage and claims processing policies, including Local Coverage Decisions (LCDs), as the MACs standardize activities across their assigned regions.

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