



Radiology Views™ Newsletter – July 2009

Medicare Referring Physician Rule Change

Effective 10/5/2009

Since 1992, the ordering or referring provider's name and UPIN was required to be included on the 1500 claim form submitted by a provider. In 2008, the UPIN was replaced with the NPI of the ordering or referring provider.

Social Security Act requirements mandate that CMS have edits in place to verify that the ordering or referring provider is enrolled in Medicare and is eligible to order or refer. A limited list of Provider specialties that may order or refer include:

- Doctor of Medicine or Osteopathy
- Chiropractic Medicine
- Physician Assistant
- Certified Clinical Nurse Specialist
- Nurse Practitioner
- Certified Nurse Midwife

There are two phase to implementing the Social Security Act mandate:

Phase 1 – Commencing 10/5/2009, if a claim fails the above described edits, Medicare will process the claim and will include an informational message on the remittance advice. The message will notify the provider that the claims may not be paid in the future if the ordering or referring provider is not enrolled in Medicare or the provider is not eligible.

Phase 2 – The effective date of phase 2 has not been determined. Once phase 2 is implemented, if a claim fails the above described edits, the claim will be denied. Also, if a referring or ordering provider has multiple PINs associated to the NPI in the Medicare system, Medicare will use the first active PIN with an eligible specialty to verify the ability to order or refer. PRC will monitor and report any edit failures to all our clients.

Medicare official instructions regarding this change may be found at:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R470oTN.pdf>

Medicare MLN Matters document regarding this change may be found at:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/mm6417.pdf>

If you have any questions on this or other documentation and coding topics, please call or email Don Clark, RCC, at 330.564.2608 or dclark@prcmedical.com.