

## **BEGINNING APRIL 5<sup>th</sup> MEDICARE TO REJECT CLAIMS FOR PROVIDERS NOT ENROLLED IN Medicare's Provider Enrollment Chain Ownership System (PECOS)**

After April 5, 2010, *all tests or medical equipment ordered by physicians not enrolled in PECOS will be automatically rejected for payment* by Medicare, regardless of the indication for the test. Thus if you perform an MRI or any other test ordered by a “non-PECOS-enrolled” provider, that test will NOT be reimbursed.

### Background

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) requires physicians and non-physician practitioners to enroll and maintain Medicare program enrollment to be eligible to receive Medicare payments for covered services furnished under Medicare.

### Issue

All Medicare providers also must be enrolled in PECOS. Even though some physicians and non-physician practitioners are enrolled in Medicare, enrollment records might not be in PECOS.

Physicians and non-physician practitioners who are enrolled in Medicare but who have not updated their Medicare enrollment record since November 2003 must update their enrollment record now. This will establish a current enrollment record in PECOS.

Effective April 5, 2010 all tests or medical equipment ordered by physicians not enrolled in the Medicare PECOS systems will be rejected. If this occurs, the physician who was not enrolled in PECOS must enroll.

Medicare non-participating and opt-out physicians also need to be enrolled in PECOS or any tests they order will not be reimbursed.

### What Can You Do

If you are already enrolled in Medicare, make sure you have a current PECOS enrollment record.

CMS has made available a file that contains the National Provider Identifier (NPI) and the name (last name, first name) of all physicians and non-physician practitioners who are of a type/specialty that is eligible to order and refer in the Medicare program and who have current enrollment records in Medicare (i.e., they have enrollment records in PECOS that contain an NPI). This file is downloadable from the Medicare provider/supplier enrollment web site: [www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicareProviderSupEnroll](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicareProviderSupEnroll) click on “Ordering/Referring Report” on the left-hand side.

Encourage physicians who refer to you and your practice to verify their PECOS status.

Additional information about Internet-based PECOS and a link to Internet-based PECOS may be found on the [Medicare provider/supplier enrollment website](#).