



ORDERING/REFERRING PROVIDER EDITS

All claims processed by Medicare Carriers and Part B Medicare Administrative Contractor (MACs) are subject to new system edits, CO121; N264 – Missing/incomplete/invalid ordering provider name; N265 – Missing/incomplete/invalid ordering provider primary identifier; to insure all services billed are ordered or referred by providers who are **eligible** (Doctor of Medicine or Osteopathy; Dental Medicine; Dental Surgery; Podiatric Medicine; Optometry; Chiropractic Medicine; Physician Assistant; Certified Clinical Nurse Specialist; Nurse Practitioner; Clinical Psychologist; Certified Nurse Midwife; and Clinical Social Worker) to order/refer those services.

There are two systems that house provider information:

- Medicare's Multi Carrier Claim System (MCS) (local claims system)
- Provider Enrollment, Chain and Ownership System (PECOS) (Internet-based national system).

All Ordering/Referring and Rendering Providers need to verify their enrollment by accessing internet based PECOS (<https://pecos.cms.hhs.gov/pecos/login.do>) on the CMS website or by calling Provider Enrollment at (866) 794-0466. If revalidation is required this can be completed through PECOS or by submitting the paper enrollment application 855I, per CMS required update if not done since 11/2003.

NOTE: If no Referral Source on charge line; MEDTRON auto sends Rendering Provider as Ref Src; i.e., if CO121, N264, N265 and no Ref Src on charge line, Rendering Provider needs to verify enrollment.

See [MLN Matters article MM6417](#) on the CMS website for specific details and *Pinnacle Medicare Providers' News*, September 2009, pages 22-23

Key Points

- **During Phase 1 (October 5, 2009-January 3, 2010):** If the ordering/referring provider is on the claim, Medicare will verify that the ordering/referring provider is in PECOS and is eligible to order/refer in Medicare. **If the ordering/referring provider is not in PECOS the carrier or Part B MAC will search its claims system for the ordering/referring provider. If the ordering/referring provider is not in PECOS and is not in the claims system, the claim will continue to process and the Part B provider or supplier will receive a warning message on the Remittance Advice. If the ordering/referring provider is in PECOS or the claims system but is not of the specialty to order or refer, the claim will continue to process and the Part B provider or supplier will receive a warning message on the Remittance Advice.**
- **During Phase 2, (postponed to April 5, 2010):** If the billed item or service requires an ordering/referring provider and the ordering/referring provider is not in the claim, the claim will not be paid. It will be rejected. If the ordering/referring provider is on the claim, Medicare will verify that the ordering/referring provider is in PECOS and eligible to order and refer. **If the ordering/referring provider is not in PECOS, the carrier or Part B MAC will search its claims system for the ordering/referring provider. If the ordering/referring provider is not in PECOS and is not in the claims system, the claim will not be paid. It will be rejected. If the ordering/referring provider is in PECOS or the claims system but is not of the specialty to order or refer, the claim will not be paid. It will be rejected.**
- In **both phases**, Medicare will verify the NPI and the name of the ordering/referring provider reported in the claim against PECOS or, if the ordering/referring provider is not in PECOS, against the claims system. In paper claims, be sure not to use periods or commas within the name of the ordering/referring provider. Hyphenated names are permissible.
- Providers who order or refer may want to verify their enrollment in PECOS. They may do so by accessing Internet-based PECOS at <https://pecos.cms.hhs.gov/pecos/login.do> on the CMS website. Before using Internet-based PECOS, providers should read the educational material about Internet-based PECOS that is available at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/04_InternetbasedPECOS.asp on the CMS website. Once at that site, scroll to the download section of that page and click on the materials that apply to you and your practice.