



**050610 BLAST**

## **Medicare Signature Guidelines for Medical Review Purposes**

Effective April 16, 2010, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is implementing new rules for signature requirements for claims and E-prescribing services for all contractors who review Medicare claims. These include Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs), Affiliated Contractors (ACs), Recovery Audit Contractors (RACs), Program Safeguard Contractors (PSCs), Zone Program Integrity Contractors (ZPICs) and Comprehensive Error Rate Testing (CERT) Contractors. The new rules are retroactive for CERT for the November 2010 reporting period.

Prior to this update, the Program Integrity Manual required a “legible identifier” in the form of a handwritten or electronic signature for every service provided or performed. The updated rules provide some exceptions including: fax signatures on certifications of terminal illness for hospice; orders for clinical diagnostic tests are not required to be signed; and other regulations regarding signature requirements (i.e., NCD, LCD or CMS manual) taking precedence over the new signature requirements.

Medicare now has a Repository where providers can submit a Signature Log that will be held on file. When a response to an ADR is received by the Medical Review Dept and have questions/concerns with signature(s) on documentation, Medical Review will check the Repository first.

### **CLIENT ACTION NEEDED:**

Medicare recommends that each provider take a blank sheet of paper and make 6 legible entries of their name, credentials and National Provider Identification (NPI) Number. The Signature Log should list the typed or printed name of the physician associated with initials or an illegible signature. Above each LEGIBLE entry, physician should handwrite signature (best to complete on different days, as signatures could vary) and submit Signature Log to Medical Review via fax (501) 378-5622 to store in the Repository.

See MEDTRONs [082809 News Blast – Medicare Legible Identifier \(Signature\) Requirements](#) for more information on a Legible Identifier and the MEDTRON recommended provider stamp.

For full details of the new Signature Guidelines please review the Medlearn Matters article located at: <http://www.cms.gov/MLN MattersArticles/downloads/MM6698.pdf>.