
Program Memorandum Intermediaries

Department of Health &
Human Services (DHHS)
Centers for Medicare &
Medicaid Services (CMS)

Transmittal A-02-072

Date: JULY 31, 2002

CHANGE REQUEST 2119

SUBJECT: Implementation of the Provider Enrollment, Chain and Ownership System (PECOS)

To enhance CMS effort to ensure that only qualified providers and suppliers enroll in the Medicare program, we identified the need for a centralized data storage and retrieval system. Working under contract with American Management Systems, such a system has been developed. The system will be known as PECOS. The PECOS will be the primary data source for the information collected via the series of CMS 855 forms. The system will be implemented in three phases: phase one for intermediaries in FY 2002, phase two for carriers in FY 2003, and phase three for the National Supplier Clearinghouse at a date yet to be determined by CMS.

Beginning July 29, 2002, all intermediaries will be required to enter the information received via the CMS 855A into PECOS. Intermediaries should enter the data from the CMS 855A no more than 17-days after receipt in the mailroom beginning will all CMS 855A's received on July 29, 2002. At this time, the intermediaries will not be required to enter the data from previously received and processed CMS 855s.

The PECOS will be maintained at central office. Users will access PECOS utilizing MetaFrame Client Software located on their desktop PC. Connection will be via their AT&T Global Network Service telecommunication line. Users may also connect via the "Dial-up" or "T1 line."

The User Guide and the Training Guide were distributed on March 7, 2002. The CMS allowed for online desktop training from March 11, 2002, through July 12, 2002. From July 13, 2002 through July 28, 2002, PECOS will be shut down and transitioned from the CMS data center training region to the CMS data center production region. During this period all data entered into PECOS during the training period will be flushed and the system brought up empty.

The *effective date* for this Program Memorandum (PM) is July 29, 2002.

The *implementation date* for this PM is July 29, 2002.

These instructions should be implemented within your current operating budget.

This PM may be discarded after July 28, 2003.

If you have any questions, contact the appropriate regional office. Regional office staff can direct questions to Michael Collett at (410)-786-6121 or Sharon Chester at (410) 786-2749.