

Program Memorandum

Intermediaries/Carriers

Transmittal AB-00-64

**Department of Health and
Human Services (DHHS)
HEALTH CARE FINANCING
ADMINISTRATION (HCFA)**

Date: JUNE 2000

CHANGE REQUEST 1233

**SUBJECT: Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) Implementation at Seven Contractor Sites--
ACTION**

This Program Memorandum (PM) is to inform you that seven additional Medicare Part A and Part B contractors will be implementing the Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) within Fiscal Year 2000. If you have already implemented the MSN or are not one of the seven listed contractors, no action is necessary.

The contractors and their target implementation dates are:

| Part A - Intermediary | Implementation Date |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama | 8/1/2000 |

| Part B - Carriers | Implementation Date |
|--|---------------------|
| HGS Administrators | 8/14/2000 |
| Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield (New Jersey) | 8/14/2000 |
| National Heritage Insurance Company | 8/18/2000 |
| Wisconsin Physician Service Insurance Corporation (Illinois and Michigan) | 9/1/2000 |
| Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Western New York | 9/8/2000 |
| Noridian Mutual Insurance Company (North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado and Iowa) | 9/8/2000 |

Please be advised that funding will only be available for these implementations during Fiscal Year 2000. Therefore, MSN implementation must be completed by the end of Fiscal Year 2000.

Please refer to Transmittal No. A-99-48 (released 11/99) and Transmittal No. B-99-41 (released 12/99) for instructions to implement the new MSN. We are mailing a hard copy of the exhibits under separate cover to the Regional Offices (ROs). Your RO will send you the exhibits directly.

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Effective immediately, include the MSN in any outreach efforts. Additionally, in order to help promote the implementation of the MSN among Medicare beneficiaries, these seven contractors must print the following message in the General Information section of current benefit notices until implementation is completed:

The current benefit notices are being replaced by a more customer friendly monthly statement, the Medicare Summary Notice (MSN). The newly designed MSN is scheduled for implementation by late summer 2000.

The *effective date* for this PM is August 1, 2000.

The *implementation dates* for this PM are indicated in the chart above.

Funding will be made available through the regular budget process for implementation.

This PM may be discarded after June 1, 2001.

Comments may be referred to Nancy Conn at (410) 786-8374 or Michelle Hochberg at (410) 786-6955.