
Program Memorandum Intermediaries

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

Transmittal A-02-010

Date: FEBRUARY 1, 2002

CHANGE REQUEST 1926

SUBJECT: Changes to Common Working File (CWF) Beneficiary Eligibility Checks for Medicare+Choice Encounter Data

These changes only apply to Medicare+Choice beneficiary encounters submitted by Medicare+Choice Organizations (M+COs). These changes do not apply to intermediaries or carriers.

Changes to CWF beneficiary eligibility checks are required to successfully process encounter data submitted by M+COs. The current CWF eligibility checks for M+CO beneficiaries hinder the collection of certain encounter data necessary for accurate calculation of risk adjustment payments to M+COs. The following changes are required:

- 1) Eliminate check for Part A eligibility on inpatient encounter data. Currently, CWF verifies that the beneficiary has Part A eligibility on the discharge date on the encounter. Change the edit to verify that the beneficiary had either Parts A or B eligibility and a managed care enrollment period on the date of discharge. Submission of encounter data for those beneficiaries that only have Part B coverage is necessary for calculation of risk adjustment payments to M+COs.
- 2) Eliminate M+CO-specific verification of enrollment. Currently, CWF verifies that the beneficiary was enrolled in the specific M+CO (the "H" number) that submitted the encounter on the date(s) of service (for physician and hospital outpatient encounter data) or the date of admission (for hospital inpatient encounter data) present on the encounter. Change the edit to only verify that the beneficiary was enrolled in any M+CO on the date(s) of service or date of admission.

No additional funding will be provided by CMS; contractor activities are to be carried out within their FY 2002 operating budgets.

The *effective date* of this Program Memorandum (PM) is July 1, 2002.

The *implementation date* of this PM is July 1, 2002.

These instructions should be implemented within your current budget.

This PM may be discarded after July 1, 2003.

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