
Program Memorandum Carriers

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

Transmittal B-02-066

Date: OCTOBER 25, 2002

CHANGE REQUEST 2242

SUBJECT: Ambulance Services: Maintaining Point-of-Pickup Zip Code

SCOPE

This Program Memorandum (PM) furnishes instructions for maintaining the point-of-pickup zip code information used in pricing ambulance services.

BACKGROUND

In several prior PMs, including AB-00-88, AB-00-118, AB-00-131, and AB-01-165, we have advised you about pricing ambulance claims, based on the point-of-pickup zip code. This PM establishes the need to retain point-of-pickup information along with the rest of the claims processing information used to adjudicate ambulance claims. Point-of-pickup zip code data would then be available for statistical analysis and auditing, on a nationwide level.

POLICY

Point-of-pickup information must be retained by the carriers and must be transmitted to the common working file (CWF). CWF must capture this data as a new field, and assure that it is passed to the national claims history file.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. Carriers must report the point-of-pickup zip code, at the line item level, to CWF when they report all other ambulance claim information.
2. CWF must report the point-of-pickup zip code to the national claims history file, along with the rest of the ambulance claims record.

The *effective date* for this PM is April 1, 2003.

The *implementation date* for this PM is April 1, 2003.

These instructions should be implemented within your current operating budget.

This PM may be discarded after April 1, 2004.

If you have any questions concerning carrier issues, contact Bart Kershbaum at (410) 786-3321.