

# Program Memorandum Intermediaries/Carriers

Department of Health &  
Human Services (DHHS)  
Centers for Medicare &  
Medicaid Services (CMS)  
Date: APRIL 25, 2003

Transmittal AB-03-048

## CHANGE REQUEST 2543

**SUBJECT: End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Coordination Period**

### I. GENERAL INFORMATION

**A. Background:** Since 1999, the Social Security Administration (SSA) no longer has responsibility for terminations of Medicare for beneficiaries who have ESRD. Terminations only occur when CMS sends the information to SSA. Beginning January 2000, all ESRD records where the transplant or dialysis cessation results in a Medicare Part A termination date of January 2000 or later have been processed. Each month CMS sends a file to SSA that contains all ESRD records that should terminate that month. CMS records where the Part A termination date is December 1999 or earlier are pending.

**B. Policy:** Medicare entitlement for a beneficiary with ESRD ends:

- The 36<sup>th</sup> month after the month of transplant unless, before that time, a regular course of dialysis is begun or the individual receives a subsequent transplant, or
- The 12<sup>th</sup> month after the month dialysis ceases unless, before that time, a regular course of dialysis is begun or the individual receives a subsequent transplant.

Even though the beneficiary receives a transplant or starts dialysis and a new 30-month coordination period is established, it does not necessarily follow that the individual will file for Medicare coverage. The individual may, at his or her option, file for Medicare at any time during that period including at the end of the 30-month coordination period.

### II. BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS

Req. #	Requirements	Resp.
2543.1	<p>Beginning on January 8, 2001, the Coordination of Benefits Contractor (COBC) shall establish a subsequent 30-month coordination period for cases where Medicare entitlement should have terminated but hasn't and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The individual is 36 months post-transplant and begins a regular course of dialysis or receives a subsequent transplant after 36 months, or</li><li>• The individual stopped dialysis for 12 months and subsequently resumes dialysis or receives a kidney transplant after the 12<sup>th</sup> month after dialysis cessation, and</li><li>• The beneficiary has other insurance that is primary to Medicare.</li></ul>	

2543.2	<p>The Medicare contractor shall accept the COBC's posting of a Medicare secondary payer auxiliary file record on the Common Working File that establishes a second ESRD 30-month coordination period for the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When the first Medicare entitlement period remains open when it should have been terminated, and</li> <li>• The REBUS/REMIS system shows that the beneficiary received a second transplant or started dialysis.</li> </ul>	
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**III. SUPPORTING INFORMATION AND POSSIBLE DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS**

**A – Other Instructions:**

X-Ref Req. #	Instructions
2543.2	The Medicare contractor shall continue to submit an ECRS request for the deletion of an incorrect CWF auxiliary record.

**B – Design Considerations:**

X-Ref Req. #	Recommendation for Medicare System Requirements Implementation
	N/A

**C - Interfaces:**

X-Ref Req. #	Recommendation for Medicare System Requirements
	N/A

**D - Contractor Financial Reporting /Workload Impact: N/A**

**E - Dependencies: N/A**

**F - Testing Considerations: N/A**

**IV. Attachment(s) None**

<p>Implementation Date: May 9, 2003  Discard Date: April 25, 2004  Post-Implementation Contact:  Your regional office MSP coordinator  Effective Date: January 8, 2001</p>	<p>Funding: These instructions shall be implemented within your current operating budget.</p>
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