



July 15, 2010

Dear WPS Submitters and Providers:

Effective October 18, 2010, some providers formerly serviced by Mutual of Omaha, now serviced by Wisconsin Physicians Service (WPS), will transition to the Jurisdiction 4 (J4) A/B Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC), administered by TrailBlazer Health Enterprises® (TrailBlazerSM). Most providers affected by this transition are located in Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. This change is being made at the direction of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and is consistent with a regulation that requires most providers to be assigned to a MAC based on their geographic location. You are receiving this letter because you have been identified as one of the providers who will transition to the J4 A/B MAC, TrailBlazer.

In an effort to assure communication is reaching all affected providers, some affiliated or chain providers, who may not actually be a part of this J4 MAC workload transition, may receive this letter. As previously stated, CMS assigns providers to A/B MACs based on the geographic location of the provider. The geographic assignment rule requires each provider be assigned to the MAC that covers the state where the provider is located. However, an exception to this rule affects a limited subset of Medicare chains called Qualified Chain Providers (QCPs). If a hospital or SNF is part of a QCP, then CMS considers the location of the QCP's home office. If you are a hospital or SNF located in one of the four states listed above and are a member of a chain, we recommend contacting your home office to determine if the chain has received a QCP approval letter from CMS.

This letter is directed to the identified providers who currently submit Medicare Part A claims to WPS or have electronic claims submitted on their behalf by a billing service or clearinghouse. TrailBlazer Electronic Data Interchange (TBEDI) is looking forward to building a successful partnership with the electronic submitter community. We are committed to working with providers, submitters and vendors toward a smooth transition within an aggressive time frame. Please read this information carefully and take the necessary action to ensure that our mutual goal of a simple and efficient transition of your EDI billing processes with minimal or no disruption is achieved.

GPNET MIGRATION/EARLY BOARDING – CLAIM SUBMISSION

The ability to transition to GPNet, the TrailBlazer front end, prior to the cutover date is a tried-and-true TrailBlazer option called "early boarding," and it is a proven means of mitigating disruption in EDI services during workload and/or systems transitions. TrailBlazer has established the interfaces to the WPS FISS claims processing system, and all claims submitted to TrailBlazer will be processed just as if they were submitted to the WPS front-end system. Providers may begin early boarding on July 15, 2010. All providers must be transitioned to TrailBlazer by the cutover date of October 18, 2010. TrailBlazer strongly encourages all impacted providers to make the necessary changes and begin performing all EDI activity with TrailBlazer during this early boarding period.

Electronic claim files submitted to TrailBlazer will be forwarded to WPS for processing during the transition period. Our goal is to ensure that there is no disruption of claims processing, so claims received by 5 p.m. CT, 3 p.m. PT will be entered in the current day's cycle. TrailBlazer will provide reports and notifications regarding those submissions to you via your

GPNet electronic mailbox. Throughout the early boarding period, you will continue to use the current contractor number as the payer ID. You will use a new contractor number as the payer ID following the cutover date. Further communication will be provided regarding the exact cutover schedule and the cutover specific changes that will need to be made.

In order to migrate all of the aforementioned providers from the WPS front-end system to GPNet timely and efficiently, we must assign a new electronic submitter ID and password, as well as collect a new EDI enrollment. The reason we are collecting EDI enrollments is to ensure that we have the most current information on each provider using EDI products and services, as well as each provider's NPI, which was not included in older iterations of the EDI Enrollment Form.

Submitters who currently have a submitter ID from WPS must complete the J4 WPS Medicare Part A EDI Enrollment Packet, which is available on the TrailBlazer J4 WPS Transition Web site at: <http://www.trailblazerhealth.com/j4wps/edi>, to obtain a TrailBlazer submitter ID and begin using TrailBlazer EDI services. You will be notified of your submitter ID and password via fax once they have been assigned. By September 15, 2010, *all forms* in the J4 WPS Medicare Part A EDI Enrollment Packet must be completed, to ensure EDI services are not interrupted. However, we strongly encourage you to early board as soon as possible to avoid any delays.

- If you do not receive a fax with your Submitter ID within 10 days of submitting your J4 WPS Medicare Part A EDI Enrollment Packet, please call our Technology Support Center (TSC) at (866) 749-4302.
- If you do not have access to the Internet, please call our Technology Support Center and we will assist you in a manual application.

Please mail all EDI forms to:

TrailBlazer Health Enterprises, LLC
J4 WPS EDI Operations, AG-507
P.O. Box 100249
Columbia, SC 29202-3249

After the application process is completed, you will have everything you need to early board with TrailBlazer. If you utilize a network services vendor such as IVANS or VisionShare for your batch submissions (not DDE), you will need to work with them on the changes necessary for connectivity to TrailBlazer. For your convenience, VisionShare and IVANS have provided links to information that will help you get started with this process.

VisionShare

<http://www.visionshareinc.com/PartA/Colorado>
<http://www.visionshareinc.com/PartA/NewMexico>
<http://www.visionshareinc.com/PartA/Oklahoma>
<http://www.visionshareinc.com/PartA/Texas>

IVANS

<http://www.IVANS.com/WPS/J4>

ELECTRONIC REMITTANCES

If you receive electronic remittances from WPS and you wish to continue receiving them, you will also be able to download your electronic remittances from the TrailBlazer EDI front-end system, GPNet, before cutover, provided you have successfully completed early boarding and are submitting your claims to TrailBlazer. You will begin using your new

TrailBlazer receiver ID to retrieve your remits from our GPNET. If you have elected to get electronic remittances from TrailBlazer, any remittances generated by WPS after you have sent production claims in for your authorized provider numbers will be available in your receiver mailbox in our GPNET system. The new receiver ID and password will be sent to the address that is currently on file with WPS. If you believe the contact information has recently changed or is older than two years, please complete a new ERA agreement form and fax to (469) 372-1555 to the attention of Donda McDaniel. This form is available for download from the J4 WPS EDI Web page at: <http://www.trailblazerhealth.com/j4wps/edi>. You may contact our ERA department directly by calling (469) 372-0446 or (469) 372-1441.

ANSI 276/277 Claims Request/Response

TrailBlazer will process your request for claim status information in batch. Upon receipt of your ANSI 276, we may generate the following:

- 997 to confirm receipt within one business day after transmission of the 276.
- TA1 and ANSI 997 for interchange control errors and syntax errors within one business day after transmission of the ANSI 276.
- ANSI 277 within one business day after transmission of the ANSI 276.

GPNET DOCUMENTATION AND CONTINUING INFORMATION EXCHANGE

All documentation and continuing information can be accessed at:

<http://www.trailblazerhealth.com/j4wps/edi>.

- The *GPNet Communications Manual* offers complete details and specifications about GPNET.
- TrailBlazer also provides a detailed *GPNet Edits Manual*.
- All manuals are subject to updates/changes, and TrailBlazer EDI sends timely updates on all EDI-related issues as well.

To ensure you receive timely updates, please register for TrailBlazer listservs by clicking on **LISTSERV** from the top navigation of any TrailBlazer Web page.

To access and register for listservs, click **Register Now** under the "New to TrailBlazerHealth.com?" section on this page. Fill in the blanks with the required information. Select the J4 WPS Transition News listserv, and then select **Subscribe**. You will receive a confirmation e-mail that you must respond to prior to subscription activation. It is very important that you register for this listserv to ensure that you receive important updates regarding EDI information.

CUTOVER CHANGES

During the early boarding period, you will continue to submit the current contractor number or payer ID, 52280. There will be a new number assigned to the new MAC that will be in effect at cutover. TrailBlazer will be providing further information regarding the exact cutover schedule and the cutover specific changes that will need to be made. Again, continue submitting the WPS contractor number 52280 until further notice.

DIRECT DATA ENTRY

There are no provider actions required for Direct Data Entry (DDE). Your current DDE ID will not change. The EDSNET screens will change to point to the correct menu options at cutover. We will provide additional information to you before cutover that will explain the sign-in screen changes.

BILLING SOFTWARE

If you currently use the PC-ACE Pro32 provided by WPS, you can continue to use this software until the cutover to the J4 A/B MAC is complete. You will have to change the number you use to connect within HyperTerminal once you early board with TrailBlazer. We will provide you with the dial-in number for connectivity to TrailBlazer with your password upon completion of the J4 EDI Application Form. At cutover you will be required to download the conversion of PC-ACE Pro32 WPS to the TrailBlazer version from the TrailBlazer Web site at <http://www.trailblazerhealth.com/Electronic Data Interchange/Software - Manuals>. Alternatively, you may wish to acquire assistance from a certified vendor, billing service or clearinghouse for EDI services. A list is available on our Web site at <http://www.trailblazerhealth.com/Electronic Data Interchange/EDI Enrollment>.

VENDOR, BILLING SERVICES AND CLEARINGHOUSES

Those software vendors, billing services and clearinghouses who are noted as certified vendors by WPS will receive a copy of this letter to apprise them of all transition details. We recommend that all providers contact their software vendor, billing service and/or clearinghouse to ensure their readiness to transition.

EDI QUESTIONS AND ASSISTANCE

For assistance or questions related to this transition, GPNet or DDE connectivity, claim submission, report retrieval and general EDI-related questions, please contact the TrailBlazer EDI Technology Support Center toll-free at (866) 749-4302 for assistance Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. ET.

We once again encourage all submitters to take full advantage of our Web site, <http://www.trailblazerhealth.com/j4wps/edi>, which contains comprehensive information about the EDI transition and is an expedient alternative to telephone inquiries.

It is important to note that all new requests for EDI products or services should continue to be directed to WPS until after cutover. TrailBlazer will be sending a second communication that will announce the exact cutover times and dates along with details regarding the payer ID changes, further DDE information, and information regarding the process for requesting new EDI services from TrailBlazer.

Welcome to TrailBlazer EDI! We look forward to a smooth transition and a productive relationship with our new submitter community.

Sincerely,

Your TrailBlazer EDI Team