



July 9, 2010

**Important Information:**

**Wisconsin Physicians Service (WPS) Legacy Provider Transition to Jurisdiction 4 (J4) Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC)**

Dear WPS Legacy Providers:

Effective October 18, 2010, certain Part A institutional providers currently serviced by WPS will transition to TrailBlazer Health Enterprises<sup>®</sup>, the J4 A/B MAC for the states of Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

This transition will primarily affect certain hospitals, Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) and other institutional providers located in the J4 MAC four-state region identified above. It will include Medicare providers who:

- Currently submit Part A claims to WPS and were serviced by Mutual of Omaha prior to 2007 when WPS assumed the Medicare fiscal intermediary contract.
- Will be transferred to the J4 A/B MAC (TrailBlazer<sup>SM</sup>) pursuant to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) geographic rule for assigning providers to MACs.

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.

A final list of Part A providers who will be transitioned will be furnished to TrailBlazer in the future. Once this list is approved by CMS, TrailBlazer will send a final welcome letter to confirm each transitioning Part A provider.

As key partners, CMS, WPS and TrailBlazer will be responsible for fully coordinating all Part A-related Medicare activities to ensure claims payment operations continue without interruption. We are committed to making certain all affected providers receive quality Medicare services throughout the transition period. Once fully transitioned, TrailBlazer as the J4 MAC will be responsible for providing all future Medicare Part A services such as the following:

- Claims processing.
- Customer Service toll-free service and inquiry resolution.
- Provider audit and reimbursement.
- Provider enrollment.
- Redetermination/appeal requests.
- Provider outreach and education.

TrailBlazer has been a Medicare contractor since the inception of the program and has a long, successful history of providing excellent Medicare services. We are dedicated to providing

health care providers with the necessary tools, resources and information needed to understand the Medicare program and bill claims correctly.

### **J4 WPS Transition Web Site**

TrailBlazer has created a dedicated J4 WPS Transition Web site to ensure providers receive the latest information, important updates and answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) throughout the workload implementation. This site will be continually updated with pertinent J4 legacy transition information. The J4 WPS Transition Web site can be accessed at:

<http://www.trailblazerhealth.com/J4WPS/>

Providers are encouraged to bookmark this page for easy access to all J4 WPS transition-related information and responses to FAQs regarding the transition. After the workload and affected providers are transitioned, this temporary site will be discontinued. At that time, providers will be notified to refer to the current J4 MAC Web site at <http://www.trailblazerhealth.com> for all their Medicare-related information and resources.

### **Listserv Notifications**

In addition to the J4 WPS Transition Web site, providers are encouraged to register for the J4 WPS Transition listserv to receive timely e-mail messages regarding transition details such as upcoming deadlines, claims processing dark days and other important policy or coverage changes.

TrailBlazer's J4 WPS Transition Web site and listserv notifications will be valuable resources throughout the transition period and will be the primary means to communicate the following important information:

- Transition activities/FAQs.
- Critical cutover news.
- Claims processing dark days (system availability and transition payment schedules).
- Electronic Data Interchange (EDI).
- Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) information.
- Local Coverage Determination (LCD) updates.
- Other processing differences and mailing/contact information.

Transitioning providers who currently submit Medicare Part A claims electronically to WPS or have electronic claims submitted on their behalf by a billing service or clearinghouse will receive a separate mailing from the TrailBlazer EDI department. This letter will include comprehensive information regarding EDI activities, electronic claims transition and the TrailBlazer "early boarding" process. The early boarding process will help providers become familiar with using TrailBlazer's front-end EDI and EFT services to ensure a seamless transition for their electronic claims submission. Watch for this vital information to be mailed in early July.

### **References:**

- Special Edition (SE) 1016:  
<http://www.cms.gov/MLN Matters Articles/downloads/SE1016.pdf>
- Change Request (CR) 6569, Transmittal 583, dated October 28, 2009:  
<http://www.cms.gov/transmittals/downloads/R583OTN.pdf>

- CR 6902, Transmittal 691, dated April 30, 2010:  
<http://www.cms.gov/transmittals/downloads/R691OTN.pdf>

TrailBlazer's primary goal is to ensure a smooth, seamless transition with minimal to no disruptions to your Medicare business.

Welcome to TrailBlazer and the MAC environment. We look forward to a long and successful relationship with each new provider.

TrailBlazer Health Enterprises