

TrailBlazer Medicare Contractor Updates listserv – October 26, 2006

TrailBlazer Health Enterprises, LLC (TrailBlazer) has recently updated our Web site with the following important information. Please click on the corresponding link for further information.

★ Medicare Hot Topics

[Getting an NPI is free – not having one can be costly.](#)

[Providers should submit BOTH their NPI and legacy numbers until testing is complete.](#)

[Flu Shot Reminder – The Flu Season is Upon Us.](#)

★ Medicare Part A & B

CMS Emergency Preparedness, CMS CR 5336 – CMS is working to strengthen its emergency preparedness to ensure its communications infrastructure can reach providers with critical information in a timely fashion, in the event of a regional or national disaster. TrailBlazer has specifically developed the **TrailBlazer Emergency Information** mailing list. This mailing list will be used to provide important instructions, facts and contact information in the case of a regional or national emergency. Providers are encouraged to subscribe to this new mailing list to remain informed. It is also recommended that at least one alternate contact at the provider's office/facility subscribe to the TrailBlazer Emergency Information mailing list as a backup.

<http://www.trailblazerhealth.com/notices.asp?action=detail&id=3962>

CMS Special Edition Article SE0671 - Own Your Future: LTC Campaign – This special edition article posted to the CMS MLN Matters Web site on **October 20, 2006** .

<http://www.trailblazerhealth.com/notices.asp?action=detail&id=3958>

Only Seven Months Remain Until the NPI Compliance Date, *CMS Contractor Provider Education Resources Listserv, dated October 23, 2006*) - October 23, 2006, means only seven months remain until the NPI compliance date. Don't procrastinate; getting an NPI is only the first step in preparing for the compliance date. Providers should allow time to share their NPI with payers and other trading partners, update referral lists as well as modify and test computer systems. Following are additional NPI updates:

- CMS has compiled a list of resources that will help to answer many questions on NPI.
- An FAQ on EFT of payments from health plans to health care providers was recently added to the CMS FAQ Web site.
- Providers may participate in the Latest WEDI Industry Survey. The last day to participate in the survey is October 31, 2006.
- Medicare is testing the new software that has been developed to use the NPI in the

existing Medicare fee-for-service claims processing systems. Providers have until May 23, 2007, before they are required to submit claims with only an NPI.

- Medicare will require the NPI on its paper claim forms. A variety of MLN Matters articles are available on this topic on the CMS Web page.

<http://www.trailblazerhealth.com/notices.asp?action=detail&id=3957>

Guidelines for Teaching Physicians, Interns and Residents Fact Sheet, *CMS Contractor Provider Education Resources Listserv, dated October 24, 2006* - The updated fact sheet is now available in print format on the CMS MLN Product Ordering Web page.

<http://www.trailblazerhealth.com/notices.asp?action=detail&id=3959>

★ Medicare Part A&B LCDs

Infliximab I-70AB-R3

ICD-9 Code 696.1 added to limited coverage, as refractory plaque type psoriasis is now covered without requirement for individual consideration (appeal).

Effective Date: September 26, 2006.

Part A Only

Note: The following information is being re-communicated because the title of the LCD was inadvertently removed from the listserv sent on October 23, 2006.

Drugs and Biologicals, Non-Chemotherapeutic - I-66A

Per Change Request (CR) 5011 and 5304, HCPCS code C9227 (OPPS) used to represent micafungin sodium (Mycamine®) and J3490 (non-OPPS) were added to the LCD. This drug is covered for treatment of esophageal candidiasis (112.84).

Effective date: March 16, 2005 (FDA approval date).

Policies can be viewed in their entirety on the TrailBlazer Web site at:

<http://trailblazerhealth.com/coverage/index.asp>

★ Medicare Part A

Understanding the RA for Institutional Providers Web-Based Training (WBT), *CMS Contractor Provider Education Resources Listserv, dated October 25, 2006* - An Understanding the Remittance Advice (RA) for Institutional Providers WBT course is now available through the CMS MLN. This course provides institutional providers and their billing staff with general RA information and includes instructions to help interpret the RA received from Medicare and reconcile it against submitted claims.

<http://www.trailblazerhealth.com/notices.asp?action=detail&id=3961>

Part A PC-Print User Guide Removed From EDI Web Page – The Part A PC-Print User Guide that provides detailed instructions for the Part A PC-Print software has been removed from the Part A EDI Web page. The user guide is in the process of being updated with corrected information. Providers will be notified when the updated Part A PC-Print User Guide has been reposted to the Part A EDI Web page and is available for download.

<http://www.trailblazerhealth.com/notices.asp?action=detail&id=3960>

The Rural Health Clinic (RHC) provider manual has recently been updated and is now available on the Provider Outreach and Education (POE) Web page under *Resource Manuals*.
<http://www.trailblazerhealth.com/parta/education.asp>

Please share this listserv with others in your organization who would benefit from receiving timely and accurate Medicare information. Instructions to join the [TrailBlazer General and specialty listservs](#) are linked for their reference.
