

Mirean Coleman,
MSW LICSW, CT
Senior Policy Associate

ENROLLING IN MEDICARE AS A CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK PROVIDER

Under The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989, clinical social workers became eligible as Medicare providers to seek reimbursement under Medicare Part B for the diagnosis and treatment of mental illnesses performed in an outpatient setting. In order to become credentialed as a Medicare provider, a clinical social worker must first meet the following requirements:

- Possess a Master of Social Work Degree or a doctorate degree from an accredited school of social work.
- Have a minimum of two years or 3,000 hours of post-master's experience in a supervised clinical setting.
- Have a clinical license in the state of practice. In the absence of a state license, a state certification is required.
- Have a National Provider Identifier Number.
- Have malpractice insurance.

Application Process

Applications for enrollment may be submitted to the Internet-based Provider Enrollment, Chain and Ownership System (PECOS). PECOS is now the only method to apply to become a Medicare provider. It provides immediate tracking of the application process and reduces the enrollment process by 50 percent. Effective immediately, all clinical social workers

who applied by paper to become a Medicare provider must now submit a PECOS application in order to remain active as a Medicare provider.

Upon meeting the requirements to become a Medicare provider, the clinical social worker should:

- Complete the Medicare enrollment application form, CMS-855I, for physicians and non-physician practitioners. An electronic copy of the CMS-855I is available online at www.cms.hhs.gov/cmsforms/downloads/cms855i.pdf. Should you have questions about the application process, contact the Medicare provider enrollment office in your region. A list of state Medicare provider enrollment telephone numbers and e-mail addresses is attached.
- Submit the provider application online. Each section of the application must be completed in order for the application to be processed; otherwise, it will be returned.
- Submit an Electronic Funds Transfer Authorization Agreement Form, CMS-588, with the application.
- Submit all supporting documentation including a copy of your professional license. All supportive paper documentation must be sent by postal service mail within seven days of the electronic submission.

- Sign and date the application. The certification statement must also be sent by postal service mail within 7 days of the electronic submission. The Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) will not process the electronic application without the signed and dated Certification Statement. Only original signatures are accepted in ink, preferably blue. Copied or stamped signatures are not acceptable. The effective date of filing a Medicare enrollment application is the date the MAC receives the signed Certification Statement.
- Retain a copy of the enrollment application for your files.

Although Medicare is a federal program, the MAC in each state or region governs the policies and procedures in its locality. Therefore, some discrepancies may exist among MACs regarding policies and payment for clinical social workers.

Clinical social workers are currently reimbursed for psychotherapy services only under Medicare Part B. NASW is advocating for clinical social workers to receive reimbursement under Part A services, as well. Clinical social work services are bundled in hospitals and skilled-nursing facilities and, therefore, are not reimbursable at this time.

Additional information about the Medicare enrollment process is available online at www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/.

MEDICARE PROVIDER ENROLLMENT CENTERS*

State	MAC	Telephone Number	Web Site Address
Alabama	Cahaba GBA	866-539-5598	www.cahabagba.com/
Alaska	Noridian Administrative Services	888-608-8816	www.noridianmedicare.com/
Arizona	Noridian Administrative Services	888-608-8816	www.noridianmedicare.com/
Arkansas	Pinnacle Business Solutions	866-582-3251	www.arkmedicare.com/
California	Palmetto GBA	866-931-3901	www.palmettogba.com/
Colorado	TrailBlazer Health Enterprises, LLC	866-539-5596	www.trailblazerhealth.com/
Connecticut	National Government Services	888-855-4356	www.ngsmedicare.com/
DC	Highmark Medicare Services	866-488-0549, option 1	www.highmarkmedicareservices.com/
Delaware	Highmark Medicare Services	866-488-0549, option 1	www.highmarkmedicareservices.com/
Florida	First Coast Service Options	866-454-9007	www.fcso.com/
Georgia	Cahaba GBA	877-567-7271	www.cahabagba.com/
Guam	Palmetto GBA	866-931-3901	www.palmettogba.com/
Hawaii	Palmetto GBA	866-931-3901	www.palmettogba.com/
Idaho	Cigna Government Services	866-520-4007	www.cignagovernmentservices.com/partb/index.html
Illinois	Wisconsin Physician Services	877-908-8476	www.wpsmedicare.com/
Indiana	National Government Services, Inc.	866-250-5665	www.ngsmedicare.com/
Iowa	Wisconsin Physician Services	866-503-7664	www.wpsmedicare.com/
Kansas	Wisconsin Physician Services	866-503-7664	www.wpsmedicare.com/
Kentucky	National Government Services, Inc.	866-250-5665	www.ngsmedicare.com/
Louisiana	Pinnacle Business Solutions	866-794-0466	www.arkmedicare.com/
Maine	NHIC Corp.	877-258-4442	www.medicarenhic.com/ne_prov/contacts.shtml
Maryland	Highmark Medicare Services	866-488-0549, option 1	www.highmarkmedicareservices.com/
Massachusetts	NHIC Corp.	877-527-6594	www.medicarenhic.com/ne_prov/contacts.shtml

MEDICARE PROVIDER ENROLLMENT CENTERS*

State	MAC	Telephone Number	Web Site Address
Michigan	Wisconsin Physicians Services	877-908-8476	www.wpsmedicare.com/
Minnesota	Wisconsin Physicians Services	866-564-0315	www.wpsmedicare.com/
Mississippi	Cahaba GBA	866-419-9454	www.cahabagba.com/
Missouri	Wisconsin Physicians Services	866-503-7664	www.wpsmedicare.com/
Montana	Noridian Administrative Services	888-608-8816	www.noridianmedicare.com/
Nebraska	Wisconsin Physicians Services	866-503-7554	www.wpsmedicare.com/
Nevada	Palmetto GBA	866-931-3901	www.palmettogba.com/palmetto/palmetto.nsf/DocsCat/Home
New Hampshire	NHIC Corp.	877-258-4442	www.medicarenhic.com/ne_prov/contacts.shtml
New Jersey	Highmark Medicare Services	866-488-0549, option 1	www.highmarkmedicare.com/
New Mexico	TrailBlazer Health Enterprises, LLC	866-539-5596	www.trailblazerhealth.com/
New York (Update)	National Government Services, Inc.	877-567-7173	www.ngsmedicare.com/
New York City	National Government Services, Inc.	866-837-0241	www.ngsmedicare.com/
North Carolina	Cigna Government Services	866-520-4007	www.cignagovernmentservices.com/partb/index.html
North Dakota	Noridian Administrative Services	888-608-8816	www.noridianmedicare.com/
Ohio	Palmetto GBA	866-308-5439	www.palmettogba.com/
Oklahoma	TrailBlazer Health Enterprises, LLC	866-539-5596	www.trailblazerhealth.com/
Oregon	Noridian Administrative Services	888-608-8816	www.noridianmedicare.com/
Pennsylvania	Highmark Medicare Services	866-488-0549, option 1	www.highmarkmedicare.com/
Puerto Rico	First Coast Service Options	877-715-1921	www.fcso.com/
Rhode Island	Pinnacle Business Solutions	866-582-3251	www.medicarenhic.com/ne_prov/contacts.shtml
South Carolina	Palmetto GBA	866-238-9654	www.palmettogba.com/
South Dakota	Noridian Administrative Services	888-608-8816	www.noridianmedicare.com/
Tennessee	CIGNA Government Services	866-520-4007	www.cahabagba.com/
Texas	TrailBlazer Health Enterprises, LLC	866-539-5596	www.trailblazerhealth.com/
Utah	Noridian Administrative Services	888-608-8816	www.noridianmedicare.com/
Vermont	NHIC, Corp.	877-258-4442	www.medicarenhic.com/ne_prov/contacts.shtml
Virginia	TrailBlazer Health Enterprises, LLC	866-697-9670	www.trailblazerhealth.com/
Virgin Island	First Coast Service Options	877-715-1921	www.fcso.com/
Washington	Noridian Administrative Services	888-608-8816	www.noridianmedicare.com/
West Virginia	Palmetto GBA	866-308-5439	www.palmettogba.com/
Wisconsin	Wisconsin Physicians Services	877-908-8476	www.wpsmedicare.com/
Wyoming	Noridian Administrative Services	888-608-8816	www.noridianmedicare.com/

*Contact information may change without notice.