

Medicare Quick Facts

A. What is Medicare?

Medicare is a federal health insurance program that provides medical coverage to 95% of the nation's elderly population age 65 or older, including certain disabled individuals and individuals with End-Stage Renal Disease.

The program consists of four parts:

- Part A- hospital insurance;
- Part B- medical insurance. This coverage is for physician care, diagnostic, laboratory and other services;
- Part C- Medicare Advantage (MA);
- Part D- Medicare Prescription drug plan (PDP).

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is the Federal agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that administers and oversees the Medicare Program and a portion of the Medicaid Program. CMS establishes policy for reimbursement, conducts research of healthcare management and treatment, and assesses the quality of health care facilities and services.

Contractors perform claims processing and other administrative functions on behalf of CMS. CMS's primary function is to assure that contractors and state agencies properly administer the program and protect the Medicare Trust Fund.

B. Where to go for Medicare resources

First Coast Service Options, Inc. (FCSO) contracts with CMS to provide quality Medicare administrative services to more than three million beneficiaries and 64,000 health care providers in Florida. These services include claims processing, customer service as well as education and outreach activities. FCSO also performs financial management functions for CMS that help ensure the appropriateness of the Medicare benefit payments we issue.

The FCSO Web site is www.fcsso.com. Refer to the tip sheet, *Provider Self-Service Tools and Resources*, for more information on the variety of resources the FCSO offers to help you better understand the Medicare program.

The CMS Web site at www.cms.hhs.gov is another valuable source for Medicare information and education. Your packet includes information on three tools available on the CMS Web site:

- CMS Web Wheel – helps you locate key resources on the CMS Web site
- Medicare Learning Network (MLN) Bookmark – highlights CMS national provider education products.
- Brochure, *The CMS Online Manual System*, outlines where to find program issuances and day-to-day operating instructions, as well as policies and procedures Medicare program.

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C. How do I enroll in Medicare?

To obtain reimbursement from Medicare, providers must first enroll in the program by completing the Medicare enrollment application, CMS Form 855, submitting it to FCSO.

There are four versions of the CMS Form 855 depending on how you do business (i.e., as a physician, clinic, or hospital). To determine which application form is right for you, visit the FCSO Web site which offers sections devoted to provider enrollment, including helpful tips, step by step instructions and animations to help you accurately complete the application. From www.feso.com, select "Florida Providers" under "Medicare Providers." The **Enrollment** menu is located in the left column of the page.

Other key resources to guide you through the enrollment process include:

The CMS "Medicare Physician Guide"

Your packet includes the CD, *Medicare Physician Guide: A Resource for Residents, Practicing physicians, and Other Health Care Professionals*. Refer to Chapter 2 of this guide to learn more about becoming a Medicare provider.

CMS Web site www.cms.hhs.gov

For manual instructions on the provider enrollment process, visit the CMS Web site at www.cms.hhs.gov. Click on **Regulations & Guidance**, select "Manuals" under the **Guidance** category, and locate Internet-Only Manual Publication 100-08, Chapter 10.