

Below is some information and links that we sent out this past year to our members and put in our Member Connection:

PECOS is a new system by CMS for Medicare Enrollment "on line" instead of doing the paper application. It is suppose to be much faster than the paper but you will still need to send some paperwork and signatures in after you go on line. It has been available for about a year now and we do have links on our website and have sent information out in our Member Connection about it. Recently CMS has come out stating all providers must be in PECOS by the first of the year. They have since delayed it until January 2011. Here is some of the information we have and the links to additional information.

If a provider has not had any changes in his Medicare information since Fall 2003, then he is not in PECOS and will need to send in an updated application shortly. If they have had changes (moved their office, added providers), even if they sent in a paper application, they should be in PECOS. I understand that First Coast *does not* want them to just go on line and do an application. First Coast is in the process of sending letters to providers who are not in PECOS and will instruct them to file an updated application either on line or via paper. This letter should be received within the next few months. Here is some additional informational links:

Information on CMS website:

http://www.cms.gov/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/04_InternetbasedPECOS.asp

To get into the PECOS system, a provider needs to have his NPPES user ID and password. If he has a NPI number, he should have a NPPES user ID and password. This information is at:

<https://nppes.cms.gov/NPPES/Welcome.do> to log in and change his password. For information on how to change and reset the password, go the "help" area in the top right corner of the page and select "reset password page".

Here is another link to something put out by the AMA. I think the link is on the AMA website but wanted to be sure you got this since it does state you can voluntarily re-enroll. Here is the link: <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama1/pub/upload/mm/399/medicare-enrollment-updates.pdf>. This is an older article and does not indicate that the changes were done to allow staff to use the PECOS system. It also does not state the delay of the new policy on referral providers in PECOS to January 2011. However, the links are the important part of this document.

Tips to expedite your Medicare enrollment process

Medicare Enrollment Applications/Forms (CMS-855A, CMS-855B, CMS-855I, and CMS-855R, 06/06 versions) submitted to First Coast Service Options, Inc. (FCSO) must be completed with accurate information and must have all supporting documentation attached. FCSO Provider Enrollment staff will review all submitted applications, and as necessary, will send a letter asking for additional information and/or documentation. The following tips regard the most common reasons for which FCSO must request additional information and/or documentation.

http://medicare.fcso.com/PE_Tips_and_tutorials/138279.asp

The AMA and MGMA also have a new tool that can assist physician practices in navigating the new requirements of the Medicare enrollment process and help doctors successfully enroll as quickly as

possible without interrupting patient care or Medicare reimbursements. This resource is free to members of the AMA and MGMA. You can access it at : <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama1/x-ama/upload/mm/399/medicare-enrollment-toolkit.pdf>. It has a section on PECOS.