

Online CMS Manual System

By David M. Werfel, Esq. - Tuesday, October 28, 2003

CMS has re-written all of its paper manuals (e.g. Medicare Carriers Manual, Medicare Intermediary Manual, etc.). Effective 10/1/03 they are transitioning away from all of their paper manuals. They have created an Online CMS Manual System.

Thus, all manual sections, instructions to Carriers and intermediaries are now in an electronic system.

With respect to all of the Medicare Carriers Manual sections for ambulance, these have been rewritten, including their adding new sections, e.g. for the new definitions, payment policy, etc. under the ambulance fee schedule. For the most part they are in Chapter 10 of the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual (Publication 100-02). I am currently reading these sections for content and accuracy.

Thus, all policy, procedures, etc. will be in this web-based system in the future. This also means that CMS will discontinue the practice of issuing program memoranda. They will now issue instructions through the following:

- manual revisions.
- one-time notifications.
- business requirements.
- confidential communications.

This new system is organized by functional area, e.g. eligibility, entitlement, benefit policy, claims processing, etc.

It is going to take some time to get used to this new system, but once that is done, it will make it easier to search for answers and for CMS to update instructions in a timely fashion.

I suggest you click on the link listed below to scan the introduction, table of contents, etc. I will get back to you with more specifics in a few weeks.

The ambulance sections are, for the most part, in Chapter 10 of the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual (Publication 100-2) and Chapter 15 of the Claims Processing Manual (Pub. 100-4).

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/cmsindex.asp>

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