

EXCERPT from the MSSNY 2/4/10 Interspecialty Committee Meeting

PECOS

Another vital item is Medicare provider enrollment in the PECOS system. PECOS stands for Provider Enrollment Chain Organization System. Medicare is deactivating numbers that have not been used in over 18 months. CMS is moving in the direction of making sure that everyone is in fact enrolled in the PECOS system. If a medical practice has not changed anything relative to their Medicare provider enrollment (i.e. moved, added or removed professional medical staff, etc.) since 2003, the practice is most likely not in CMS' PECOS system.

If a medical practice is changing or updating some information, the practice can update their information on-line through the following website: <https://pecos.cms.hhs.gov/pecos/login.do>. The login and password is the same login and password as used for the NPI file. However if the practice is considering changing a tax payer ID, that must be completed via hardcopy, through the mail. Unless a medical practice orders DME which requires enrollment in the PECOS system, medical practices should await a request from NGS Medicare asking the practice to **revalidate** their Medicare provider enrollment. Remember, if a medical practice is ordering DME for patients, the practice needs to be in PECOS.

In addition, referrals from out of state physicians might be problematic. A NY physician being asked to do testing by a NJ physician could be difficult if the NJ physician is not enrolled in the PECOS system.

CMS has made a file available that contains the National Provider Identifier (NPI) and the name (last name, first name) of all physicians and non-physician practitioners who are of a type/specialty that is eligible to order and refer in the Medicare program and who have current enrollment records in Medicare (i.e., they have enrollment records in PECOS that contain an NPI). This file is downloadable from the Medicare provider/supplier enrollment web site: www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicareProviderSupEnroll : click on "Ordering/Referring File" on the left-hand side. Next, scroll down to the DOWNLOAD section and click on the report link. Note, the report is over 13 thousand pages long. So, it is NOT meant to be printed.

This .pdf file contains approximately 800,000 records. A new file will be made available periodically that will replace the posted file; at any given time, only one file (the most recent) will be available. The file can be viewed online. In addition, it can be downloaded by users with technical expertise and further sorted or manipulated. It can also be used to search for a particular physician or non-physician practitioner by NPI or by name. Please note the following: (1) Records are in alphabetical order based on the surname of the physician or non-physician practitioner. (2) Name suffixes (e.g., Jr.), if they exist, are not displayed. (3) There are no "duplicates" in the file. Many physicians or non-physician practitioners share the same first and last name; their corresponding NPIs are the assurance of uniqueness. (4) Deceased physicians and non-physician practitioners are not included in the file. (5) If a user is unsure of a physician or non-physician practitioner's NPI, he or she can look it up in the NPI Registry