

November 18, 2009

Dear Valued Physician,

Effective January 5, 2010, medical equipment you prescribe for your Medicare patients will not be covered unless your Provider Enrollment Chain and Ownership System (PECOS) profile is current.

Please see the enclosed for further information on PECOS enrollment.

In short, with the modified application of PECOS, Medicare beneficiaries whose physicians are not enrolled in PECOS will be denied coverage for new, existing, or replacement medical equipment. This medical equipment includes oxygen, PAP therapy, supplies, and other products Medicare beneficiaries need to maintain a basic lifestyle in the home. Reduced coverage for these necessities will result in an increased financial burden to the beneficiary.

To ensure continuity of service and access to products utilized in the home for your Medicare patients', please update your physician provider information with the PECOS program.

If you have any questions, please contact your Oxygen One sales representative, the office at 262-521-2202, visit our website at www.oxygenone.com

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Oxygen One, Inc.

Important Physician Bulletin

Medicare PECOS Program

Effective January 4, 2010 if you are not registered with Medicare's PECOS claims for items you prescribe will be rejected.

What is PECOS?

The Provider Enrollment, Chain and Ownership System (PECOS) is an online system that allows you to manage your physicians, or other healthcare practitioners, provider file at Medicare. Medicare requires that you register with their PECOS system by January 4, 2010 to prevent claim rejections for items that you prescribe.

If you are not enrolled in internet PECOS claims for items that you prescribe or previously prescribed (if being rented) will begin to reject as of January 4, 2010.

What does the acronym PECOS mean?

The Provider Enrollment, Chain and Ownership System

<https://pecos.cms.hhs.gov/pecos/login.do>

I'm already enrolled in Medicare, do I need to enroll with PECOS also?

YES! You must enroll with PECOS before January 4, 2010. If you have enrolled with the program since 2003 you may already be in the system. HOWEVER, it is very important to your patients that you verify your PECOS status. Otherwise they may not receive the items you prescribe.

Why haven't I heard of it before?

Medicare has encouraged physicians to update their provider files since 2006. However, it has never impacted the payment of claims for referred items or services. Beginning in October of 2009 the first phase of the system was implemented.

Under the first phase claims are being paid but with a warning that the provider is not in the PECOS system.

The second phase begins on January 4, 2010. At that time claims for items referred by physicians who are not in the system will be rejected.

What other professionals must register with PECOS?

Non-physician practitioners who are eligible and those are:

- * Physician Assistants
- * Certified Clinical Nurse Specialists
- * Nurse Practitioners
- * Clinical Psychologists
- * Certified Nurse Midwives
- * Clinical Social Workers

I have an NPI number, am I in PECOS?

Probably not. Your National Provider Identification (NPI) is not registered with the PECOS system until you complete the registration process.

What happens if I do not register?

Beginning January 4, 2010 any claims for items or services that you have prescribed will be rejected if you are not in the PECOS system. This applies to Medicare claims only. Not being in the PECOS system will make it difficult for your patients to receive the items they need and will prevent / delay hospital discharges.

Also, you may have previously prescribed items that are being rented. These items can go back three years or more (oxygen for example). These claims will also deny if you are not registered with PECOS.

How to register with PECOS:

1. Have an NPPES User ID and password to use Internet-based PECOS.
2. Go to Internet-based PECOS at:
<https://pecos.cms.hhs.gov> and complete the electronic enrollment.
3. Print, sign and date and mail the 2-page Certification Statement as instructed.

Need more info?

www.getpecos.com