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J4 Coverage for Erythropoiesis-Stimulating Agents (2/15/2008)

From the Medical Director

On July 30, 2007, CMS issued National Coverage Determination (NCD) 110.21 addressing the use of Erythropoiesis-Stimulating Agents (ESAs) for patients with cancer. The NCD was effective July 30, 2007, for dates of service on or after January 1, 2008, and will be implemented April 7, 2008. To avoid confusion that may arise if both the ESA NCD and a Local Coverage Determination (LCD) were implemented simultaneously, TrailBlazer has chosen not to implement an LCD related to the ESAs epoetin alfa and darbepoetin alfa for the Jurisdiction 4 (J4) A/B Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) (Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas) at this time. Instead, TrailBlazer will focus on implementation of CMS' NCD regarding ESA coverage indications and guidelines.

CMS online manual references (not all-inclusive) are listed below for various areas of coverage and billing guidelines. The CMS Internet-Only Manuals (IOMs) can be accessed at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Manuals/IOM/list.asp>.

ESAs Administered to Cancer Patients for Anti-Anemia Therapy

Coverage NCD: *Medicare National Coverage Determinations Manual* – Pub. 100-03, Section 110.21.

Claim filing: *Medicare Claims Processing Manual* – Pub. 100-04, Chapter 17, Section 80.12.

The list of conditions below is copied from this section of the IOM. These conditions do not have ICD-9-CM codes, so TrailBlazer is locally assigning ICD-9-CM code **V49.89** to indicate the non-covered conditions for ESA administration billed with HCPCS codes J0881 and J0885 with the EC modifier.

- Any anemia in cancer or cancer treatment patients due to bone marrow fibrosis.
- Anemia of cancer not related to cancer treatment.
- Prophylactic use to prevent chemotherapy-induced anemia.
- Prophylactic use to reduce tumor hypoxia.
- Patients with erythropoietin-type resistance due to neutralizing antibodies.
- Anemia due to cancer treatment if patients have uncontrolled hypertension.

ESAs Administered to Dialysis Patients

Coverage: *Medicare Benefit Policy Manual* – Pub. 100-02, Chapter 11, Section 90.

Claim filing: *Medicare Claims Processing Manual* – Pub. 100-04, Chapter 8, Section 60.

Claim filing, route of administration JA and JB modifier: *Medicare Claims Processing Manual* – Pub. 100-04, Chapter 17, Section 80.11.

Claim filing, route of administration JA and JB modifier for dialysis facilities: *Medicare Claims Processing Manual* – Pub. 100-04, Chapter 8, Section 60.2.3.1

ESAs Administered to Non-Dialysis Patients

Coverage: *Medicare Benefit Policy Manual* – Pub. 100-02, Chapter 15, Section 50.5.2.

Part A claim filing: *Medicare Claims Processing Manual* – Pub. 100-04, Chapter 8, Section 60.

Hospital claim filing: *Medicare Claims Processing Manual* – Pub. 100-04, Chapter 17, Sections 80.9–80.10.

ESAs Administered to Preoperative Patients

Coverage: *Medicare Benefit Policy Manual* – 100-02, Chapter 15, Section 50.5.2.2.

ESAs Administered for Other FDA Label Indications

Coverage: *Medicare Benefit Policy Manual* – Pub. 100-02, Chapter 15, Section 50.4.1.

ESAs Administered for FDA Off-Label Indications

Coverage: *Medicare Benefit Policy Manual* – Pub. 100-02, Chapter 15, Section 50.4.2.

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What's New

- [Incorrect Contractor IDs Will Cause Electronic Cla...](#)
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- [Part B Telephone Reopenings - What to Expect](#)

(Notice) 4/15/08

(Document) 4/15/08

(Document) 4/15/08

(Notice) 4/14/08

(Document) 4/11/08

Rows: [Show All](#)

[Previous](#) | [1](#) | [2](#) | [3](#) | [4](#) | [5](#) | [6](#) | [7](#) | [8](#) | [Next](#) Total: 40

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J4 Implementation Schedule

CMS has released the final announcement that TrailBlazer will assume responsibility for the Colorado, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Texas J4 MAC segments (states) based on the segment-specific effective dates below. Because TrailBlazer currently has responsibility for processing over 75 percent of the J4 MAC workload as the Part A Fiscal Intermediary (FI) for the states of Colorado, New Mexico and Texas as well as the Part B carrier in Texas, it is anticipated that the impact to those providers already served by TrailBlazer will be minimal.

NOTE: Wisconsin Physicians Service (WPS) (formerly Mutual of Omaha) providers are not affected by the J4 implementation activities at this time. CMS is studying how best to transition to the applicable A/B MACs the workload formerly processed by Mutual of Omaha and now processed by Wisconsin Physicians Service Insurance Corporation. CMS will notify all parties as soon as its instructions are final.

Outgoing Contractor/J4 Segment/State	Contractor ID	J4 MAC Effective Date	LCD Effective Date	Dark Day*	J4 MAC Operations Begin
HCSC Part A FI - Oklahoma	04301	3/1/2008	3/1/2008	2/29/2008	3/3/2008
Pinnacle Part B Carrier - New Mexico - Oklahoma	04202 04302	3/1/2008	3/1/2008	2/29/2008	3/3/2008
Noridian Part B Carrier - Colorado	04102	3/21/2008	3/21/2008	3/21/2008	3/24/2008
TrailBlazer Part A FI - Colorado - New Mexico	04101 04201 04101	6/13/2008	6/13/2008	6/13/2008 Tentative	6/16/2008

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- [Part B CO Customer Service - What to Expect](#)
- [Part B Colorado Processing Differences](#)
- [J4 Local Coverage Determinations \(LCDs\) List](#)

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[MORE >](#)

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Date Posted: 4/14/2008
- [From the Desk of the Medical Director](#)
Date Posted: 4/11/2008
- [Important Date - June 13, 2008](#)
Date Posted: 4/11/2008
- [J4 Web Site Navigation](#)
Date Posted: 4/3/2008
- [CMS J4 MAC Implementation Schedule Continues -...](#)
Date Posted: 4/4/2008
- [ACTs Beginning April 30, 2008 for Part A OK](#)

- Texas	04401				
TrailBlazer Part B Carrier -Texas	04402	6/13/2008	6/13/2008	6/13/2008 Tentative	6/16/2008

*A dark day is defined as a day during the regular work week in which the Medicare claims processing system is not available for normal business operations.

Note: Regardless of date of service, all claims processing, customer services and payments will be processed by the J4 MAC upon cutover effective dates. Outgoing contractors will transfer all pending and in-process operations at that time.

What You Need To Know

Part B Colorado providers should continue their current activities (such as changes to their enrollment form) with their present carrier until March 20, 2008. Detailed contact and cutover information will be released March 14, 2008, for Colorado Part B providers only.






TrailBlazer will also release detailed implementation plans and information for existing TrailBlazer providers in late March and April 2008. Multiple communications and outreach plans are under way to ensure the provider community and other stakeholders are informed early and often on implementation activities related to the J4 A/B MAC cutover scheduled for June 13, 2008.

To prepare for the transition, we encourage providers to register for the J4 MAC Implementation News listserv. By registering for this listserv, providers will receive the latest jurisdiction-wide information on new process updates or changes and detailed J4 A/BMAC implementation activities, which will be shared in the J4 MAC Implementation News listserv as often as is needed. The J4 MAC Implementation listserv can be accessed by selecting [LISTSERVS](#) at the top of any J4 Web page or by clicking the listserv name displayed in the Listserv Web part located on this page.

Visitors are also invited to e-mail questions or concerns to J4MAC@trailblazerhealth.com.




J4 FAQs

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- [\(5632\) Schedule - In Colorado, there are some facilities...](#) 
- [\(5668\) Contact Information - Is there a direct contact...](#) 

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-  [J4 MAC Implementation News Publication #10 - Issued 02/15/08](#)
-  [J4 MAC Implementation News Publication #11 - Issued 02/22/08](#)
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 Date Posted: 4/3/2008
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 Date Posted: 4/3/2008
 [J4 LCD Updates for Week Ending March 21, 2008](#)
 Date Posted: 3/27/2008

-  [J4 MAC Implementation News Publication #3 - Issued 12/12/07](#)
-  [J4 MAC Implementation News Publication #4 - Issued 12/14/07](#)
-  [J4 MAC Implementation News Publication #5 - Issued 12/20/07](#)
-  [J4 MAC Implementation News Publication #6 - Issued 12/27/07](#)
-  [J4 MAC Implementation News Publication #7 - Issued 01/18/08](#)
-  [J4 MAC Implementation News Publication #8 - Issued 01/29/08](#)
-  [J4 MAC Implementation News Publication #9 - Issued 02/07/08](#)

Contacts

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NEW Claims/ADS Submission - Medicare Part B - Colorado

TrailBlazer Health Enterprises, LLC
Part B Claims
P.O. Box 650705
Dallas, TX 75265-0705
Hard copy claims may be sent to this address.

Claims/ADS Submission - Medicare Part B - Oklahoma

TrailBlazer Health Enterprises, LLC
Part B Claims
P.O. Box 650706
Dallas, TX 75265-0706
Hard copy claims may be sent to this address.

Claims/ADS Submissions - Medicare Part B - New Mexico

TrailBlazer Health Enterprises, LLC
Part B Claims
P.O. Box 650699
Dallas, TX 75265-0699
Hard copy claims may be mailed to this address.

Claims/RTPs Submissions - Medicare Part A - Oklahoma

TrailBlazer Health Enterprises, LLC
Medicare Part A Claims
P.O. Box 650712
Dallas, TX 75265-0712

CMS Medicare Eligibility Integration Contractor (MEIC)

Telephone: (866) 324-7315

Questions relating to 270/271 patient eligibility HIPAA transactions.

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