



OSMA News Now

The Latest News, Views, Updates, and Information for Physicians
from the Oklahoma State Medical Association

March 12, 2010

CALL FOR DELEGATES **ATTENTION COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETIES**

The House of Delegates will meet Saturday, April 17th from 9:00 a.m. – noon. Please submit the names from your county who will be serving as a delegate by faxing to 405.601.9575 or Bartlett@okmed.org.

Attention: Effective March 11, 2010

Medicare Temporary Reduction of the Claims Processing Payment Floor and HIGLAS Transition

Applies to Part B CO, NM, OK providers

Providers will receive written notification regarding the transition. Click here to review the letter:
<http://www.trailblazerhealth.com/Publications/Job%20Aid/OKNMCOHIGLASLetter.pdf>

Effective March 11, 2010, TrailBlazer will be transitioning our Part B financial accounting system from the Multi-Carrier System (MCS) to the Healthcare Integrated General Ledger Accounting System (HIGLAS). This transition involves only our financial accounting system. **We will continue to use MCS for all of our claims processing activities.**

Implementation of HIGLAS will enable CMS to track Medicare payments and to accurately pay claims for over 40 million Medicare beneficiaries. The transition will also provide CMS with enhanced oversight of contractors' accounting systems, as well as access to more accurate, timely and consistent data for decision-making and performance evaluations.

Introduction to HIGLAS

Updated information regarding the HIGLAS implementation is provided via the TrailBlazer HIGLAS Web page. A HIGLAS Computer-Based Training (CBT) module is also available on the HIGLAS Web page. In addition to information provided in this letter, the HIGLAS Web page contains updates for:

- Reporting Non-Tax Withholding Due to Federal Payment Levy Program (FPLP).
- Reporting Withholding Due to IRS Federal Payment Levy Program (FPLP) on the Remittance Advice.
- Frequently Asked Questions.

Temporary Waiver of the Claims Processing Payment Floor

CMS has approved TrailBlazer's waiver request to drop the payment floor to seven days for Electronic Media Claims (EMC) and 14 days for paper on Friday, March 5, 2010. Then on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, the floor was set to zero for EMC and paper will remain at zero until after the cutover.

This temporary reduction of the payment floor will result in payments being issued early (checks and Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)). This may give the appearance that your cash revenues have increased, when in fact payments for some of your claims may have simply been made earlier than normal. Providers are encouraged to monitor their payments and make adjustments as necessary to prevent cash flow problems during the transition period.

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HIGLAS Transition Activities

On March 10, 2010, TrailBlazer will run its last MCS payment cycle and begin the HIGLAS transition (see TrailBlazer HIGLAS Transition Timeline below).

- Waiver of the payment floor will result in claim payments (checks and EFTs) being issued earlier than normal.
- Providers are encouraged to continue submitting claims as normal.
- Following its transition to HIGLAS, TrailBlazer will resume normal scheduled payments.
- Distribution of Remittance Advices (RAs) will resume the week of March 15, 2010.

HIGLAS Remittance Advices

TrailBlazer will not be issuing payments March 11 – March 16, 2010. Electronic Remittance Advices (ERAs) and paper RAs will not be available. TrailBlazer will resume normal payment cycles and issuance of payments on March 17, 2010, at which time providers will be able to retrieve their ERAs.

TrailBlazer HIGLAS Transition Timeline

Date	Action
March 9, 2010	Release payments for all claims already approved to pay.
March 10, 2010	Last MCS payment cycle (payment floors reduced to zero).
March 11, 2010	HIGLAS transition begins.
March 11–16, 2010	No payments will be issued – ERAs and paper RAs are not produced.
March 15, 2010	HIGLAS transition completed – payment floors reinstated.
March 17, 2010	Production and distribution of ERAs and paper RAs resume.
March 15, 2010	Begin processing backlogged files and issuing payments.
March 17–31, 2010	Providers may experience a significant reduction in payments due to the early claim payments issued immediately prior to the transition. Providers need to monitor and manage their cash flows during this time period.

CHANGES PROVIDERS WILL SEE AS A RESULT OF HIGLAS

RA Change

The RA will display the TrailBlazer two-digit plan code 91 in front of the Financial Control Number (FCN).

Claim Payments Less Than One Dollar

Current CMS instructions require Part B contractors to hold claim payments of less than \$1 until another payment greater than \$1 is generated and then to combine the two payments. Payments less than \$1 will now be issued because HIGLAS functionality at this time will not suppress these payments.

Claims and Refund Payments Subject to a Hold (Do Not Forward (DNF), Bankruptcy and Payment Suspension)

A provider payment may be placed on hold due to a forwarding address, bankruptcy or payment suspension. Currently, the holds are applied to the net payment after any eligible overpayment receivables have been offset. In HIGLAS, the holds will be applied at the claim level. As a result, the held money will not be applied to eligible receivables until the hold has been released.

Claims and Refund Payments Subject to Third-Party Payer (TPP) Offset (IRS Backup Withholding)

A provider payment may be subject to offsetting to a third party such as the IRS. In the current environment, when a provider is subject to TPP, a provider check is pulled and the payment is remitted to the third party but no notification is provided on the RA. HIGLAS will communicate a TPP offset of a provider's payment on the provider's RA.

HIGLAS Impact on Claims Processing

Currently, our online system is available on federal holidays and TrailBlazer processes claims on some federal holidays. After transitioning to HIGLAS, our online system will continue to be available, but claims will no longer be processed on federal holidays. There will be no change to provider payments because TrailBlazer currently does not issue checks or EFTs on federal holidays.

For further information, please visit the TrailBlazer HIGLAS Web page. If you have any questions regarding the information contained in this letter, please contact our Provider Customer Service Call Center toll free at (866) 280-6520.

2010 Annual Meeting Oklahoma State Medical Association

along with the Oklahoma Academy of Family Physicians

Reed Conference Center - Midwest City
April 16th - 17th, 2010

REGISTRATION FORM



Date _____

Schedule (please complete the 2nd page) _____

Please put the number attending in the box provided even if there is no charge. List all names on page 2.

**Friday
April 16th**

- 7:30am Legislative Breakfast - No Charge
- 8:30am-12:30pm OSMA CME Mock Trial: Medical Malpractice \$75 members/\$125 non-members
- 12:45pm-1:45pm Luncheon - No Charge
- 1:30pm-1:55pm OAFP Registration
- 2:00pm OSMA Board of Trustees
- 2:00pm-5:00pm OAFP Mental Health Update presented by Art Rousseau, MD
- 5:00pm-6:00pm Depression METRIC, Mastering Part IV of the Boards (a Tutorial) presented by Mike Pontious, MD
- 5:30pm -7:00pm OSMA Inaugural Reception
- 7:00pm - 11:00pm OSMA/OSMAA Inaugural - \$75

For information or to register for OSMA Alliance events, please contact Nancy Bennett at (405) 601-9571 or bennett@okmed.org

**Saturday
April 17th**

- 7:30am Caucus Breakfast Buffet - No charge
- 8:00am-9:00am Oklahoma/Tulsa/Rural Caucus Meetings
- 9:00am-12:00pm OSMA House of Delegates
- 10:30am-11:00am Voting
- 12:15pm - 1:15pm Awards Luncheon \$35
- 1:30pm-2:00pm AMA Delegation Meeting
- 2:00pm-5:00pm OSMA Health Board Meeting

Name(s) of attendees: _____

PLEASE COMPLETE THE 2nd PAGE

Accreditation Statement: This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the Essential Areas and Policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint sponsorship of the Oklahoma State Medical Association (OSMA) and the Physicians Liability Insurance Company (PLICO). The OSMA is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The OSMA designates this educational activity for a maximum of 4 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Approved for credit toward the PLICO Risk Management premium discount.

CME Planning Committee has no relevant financial relationships to disclose. All Faculty have no relevant financial relationships to disclose.

OAFP Accreditation Statement: This activity has been reviewed and is acceptable for up to 4.00 Prescribed credits by the American Academy of Family Physicians.

AAFP Prescribed credit is accepted by the American Medical Association as equivalent to AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ toward the AMA Physician's Recognition Award. When applying for the AMA PRA, Prescribed credit earned must be reported as Prescribed credit, not as Category 1.

PLEASE COMPLETE

Name(s) of attendees: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Total due to the OSMA \$ _____

CHECK: Please enclose a check, made payable to the OSMA, for the full payment amount. Partial payments are not accepted.

CHECK(S) INCLUDED

CREDIT CARD: Please charge my payment in full to the credit card listed below. Partial payments are not accepted.

VISA MasterCard Discover AMEX

Signature of Authorized Card Holder: _____

Name appearing on card (Please print): _____

Card Number: _____

3 digit security code: _____ Card Expiration Date: _____

PLEASE MAIL TO ADDRESS BELOW:

Oklahoma State Medical Association, 313 NE 50th Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 73105

PLEASE CALL THE OSMA WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS:

405-601-9571 or 800.522.9452 FAX: 405.601.9575, osma@okmed.org

CANCELLATION POLICY: Attendance cancellation must be made six business days in advance to receive refund.

HOTEL INFORMATION

Hotel reservations must be made directly with the Sheraton Midwest City Hotel. Please mention the Oklahoma State Medical Association by March 26th to receive the special group rate of \$124.

Sheraton Midwest City Hotel at the Reed Conference Center
5750 Will Rogers Road • Midwest City, Oklahoma 73110
Phone: (405) 455-1800 (800) 325-3535